GEORGE W. WILSON

THE HISTORY

OF THE

Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny

FROM THE YEAR 1847 TO 1923

WITH BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

IN THE SYMBOLIC LANGUAGE OF OUR FRATERNITY, WE ARE A CRAFT OF WORKMEN ENGAGED IN THE SOLEMN AND SERIOUS OCCUPATION OF BUILDING A TEMPLE TO THE EVER-LIVING AND TRUE GOD, THE STONES OF WHICH TEMPLE WILL BE THE SOULS OF MEN, FREED FROM THE VICES AND IMPERFECTIONS OF HUMANITY, AND IN FRONT OF WHICH WILL STAND THOSE TWO GREAT COLUMNS—THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD AND THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN.

R. W. PAST GRAND MASTER GEORGE W. GUTHRIE, 33°.

BY

HIRAM SCHOCK, 32°

P. M. AVALON LODGE, No. 657

PITTSBURGH, PA.

1923

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

of

THE MASONIC FUND SOCIETY FOR THE COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY FOR 1923:

GEORGE W. McCANDLESS, *President.*

WILLIAM E. BEST, *Secretary.*

GEORGE W. WILSON, *Treasurer.*

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ALFRED S. BISHOP,

JOSEPH E. LEWIS,

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Office—

Masonic Temple, Pittsburgh, Pa.

PREFACE

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MASONIC FUND SOCIETY FOR THE COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY:

When I first took up this work, I saw at once that in order to make it in a good measure complete and satisfactory, not only was it necessary to make a careful study of the Minutes of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny from its beginning, December 25, 1847, on down, but that also research in other directions would be absolutely required. I found that I was dealing with a subject the development of which could not at all be properly achieved by confining myself to a recital and amplification merely of the minutes of the meetings of the Trustees. For it was, as I soon noted, a subject with many connecting ramifications, that if patiently followed up would unfold a most engaging and historically valuable series of events and personalities, which while primarily bound up in the progress and accomplishments of the Masonic Fraternity in the County of Allegheny, were also conspicuous and important factors in the development of our great city of Pittsburgh itself.

I found I was to deal with a separate and distinct Masonic organization which while primarily and actually devoted to the upbuilding of the Craft in this community, was also an organization that had become firmly linked with the civic and material progress of Pittsburgh. For always within the membership of the successive Boards of Trustees, from the inception of the Masonic Fund Society in 1847 down to this very day, were and are men prominent and influential not only in Masonic circles but active and powerful factors in the onward march of our great municipality. And that important fact added to the noble work of the Trustees in the erection of successive Masonic Buildings, each more imposing than the other, and each enhancing the architectural excellence of the community, amply justifies the assertion that your Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny has become a truly influential Institution in both the city and the county.

Therefore, to produce a history that should to a fair extent portray these men and describe their monumental work would necessitate research that must extend back through at least a century. For I felt that it was not only required to tell just what the successive Boards of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society had done throughout the long existence of the Society itself, but also to describe early Masonic conditions and to set down successive developments through a period of half a century before the formation of the Masonic Fund Society.

For that Society was the result of certain conditions which had made its creation necessary.

So the first thing I did was to get at the work of research. It has not been a superficial investigation. For instance, I have not merely glanced at, but have examined page by page all the printed records of the R. W. Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania through a period of over one hundred years. I have read with minute care many old and later Masonic publications, reviews and pamphlets, and have supplemented this research by close examination of early records of Masonic Lodges, by a minute reading of the files of newspapers extending back over a century and by personal interviews with Masonic brethren who still remain among us to tell of the events, the tribulations and the triumphs of Masonry in days gone by. From this mass of material I have taken and used what I believed would be the essentials for a history intended to unfold and illumine a grand phase of Pennsylvania Masonry, splendidly fruitful and enduringly valuable in high achievements.

Another point should be mentioned here. That is, that this work is distinctly a history of the Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny—a history created by the labors and successes of its successive Boards of Trustees down through three-quarters of a century. It is therefore in no sense, directly or indirectly, a history of any Masonic Lodge or other Masonic Body. The Masonic Fund Society, with its Board of Trustees, is and always has been since its formation a distinct and separate organization, created for the performance of works of benevolence, and for the promotion of what may be termed the material and financial interests of the local Fraternity. Necessarily then, the history of any Masonic Lodge or other Masonic Body could not be made a part of this work. References are made here and there in the course of the work to various Masonic Bodies, but wherever such references occur they have been set down either to confirm, to elucidate or to amplify transactions connected historically with the Masonic Fund Society and with the activities of the successive Boards of Trustees.

It has been a delight and an honor to write this history. I am conscious of its imperfections and I cannot expect that is without errors. But certainly care, patience and devotion have guided every phase of this recital, and no detail, however small, has been set down without verification. May I be permitted to say further, that this history has not been written with the idea that it shall be of interest only today or tomorrow. It is a book intended for the future as well as for the present, and I am harboring the hope that the work will be of increasing value in coming times. I like to think that half a century and more from today it will be read with keen appreciation of the struggles and the victories of the Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny, and that it may serve as a basis for abler works of future historians who shall chronicle in their volumes the story of the high devotion of Masonry to the service of Humanity, to the perpetuation of the American Republic, and to the glory of God.

Pittsburgh, Pa., January, 1923. THE AUTHOR.

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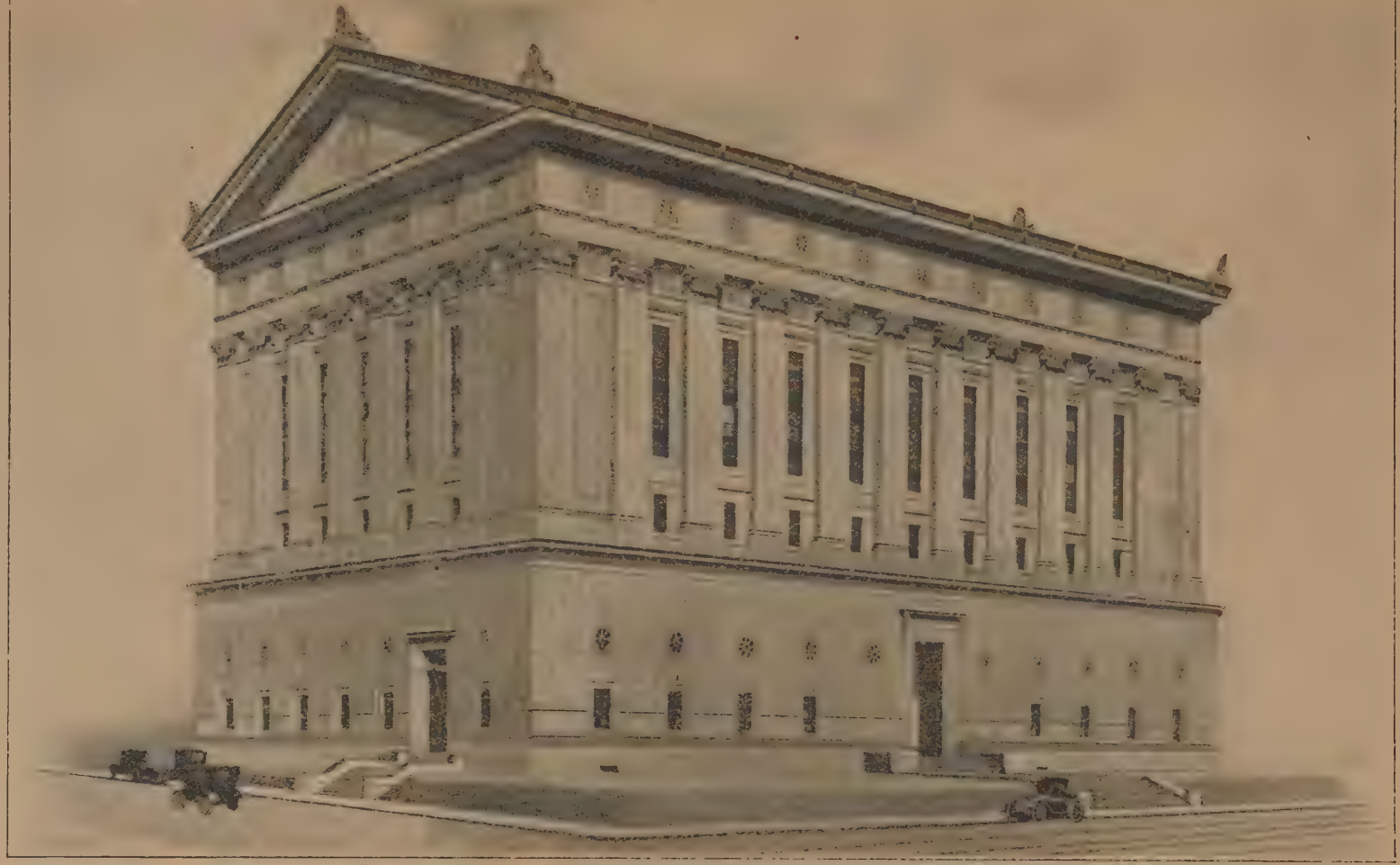

CHAPTER I.

ORGANIZATION OF THE MASONIC FUND SOCIETY.

Early Influences that Lead to its Formation—Status of the Order and First Purchase of Land in 1811—Erection and Dedication of First Hall in 1811—Bodies then in Existence—Lodges and Members Buy New Site in 1828 and Erect Larger Hall—Destroyed in Great Fire of 1845—History of Famous Lawsuit—Rare Historical Record of Masonic Appeal after 1845 Conflagration—Noted Masons meet in 1847 to form M. F. S.—Details of its Organization—First Session, Charter and By-Laws—Convocations of Local Brethren—Methods of Financing Society—Selling Stock—Site Bought on Fifth Street for $10,000—Preparations for Building Handsome Hall.

THE history of the Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny would begin, if the recital were confined to an exact date, with the close of the year 1847. But like so many institutions of high import and great purpose, this Society was the ultimate result of a progressive advance in Masonry, an advance that received its first strong impulse as far back as the year 1811. In that year the Masonic brethren secured and occupied the first ground and building, owned by the members in general in Allegheny County. And in that signal achievement will be found, as we proceed in this history, the initiative and impelling causes which were to bring about thirty-five years later the creation of a central directing organization, to which was to be entrusted in a large measure the material and financial affairs of the Masonic Brotherhood in the county of Allegheny. Hence in order to present here a proper and complete recital and to make plain the real purposes and vast benefit of the organization known as "The Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny," we shall have to go back far beyond the year 1847.

It will be seen that the Charter of this Masonic Fund Society embodies and sets forth a definite and controlling mode of action and certain great purposes. It was to be a Masonic entity; yet functioning apart from the work and ceremonies of all other regular local Masonic bodies. The aim of its founders was to hold it strictly along two plain

lines of operation: First, a line of unobtrusive charitable service and fraternal helpfulness; and, secondly, a line of well-ordered practical action, which should particularly include a trusteeship and supervision of Masonic property.

It is interesting, as well as gratifying, to note the fine sense of discrimination with which these two lines of action are set forth in the Charter, of date of October 26, 1849. A very few words sufficed to designate in that Charter the range of the Society's projected plans for the aid of the needy and for practically carrying out this scheme of fraternal generosity. In three lines the Charter announces its fundamental programme of benevolence. It declares that—

> The object of the Society shall be the distribution of charity; the relief of such of the Masonic Fraternity, their widows and orphan children, as may require its aid.

United with that noble purpose were large plans for the promotion of the material progress of the Fraternity in Allegheny County. And it is certainly a pleasure, sincerely gratifying, to be able to say, as can well be said at this date so far distant from the time of the creation of the Masonic Fund Society for Allegheny County, that long before the last of its incorporators had passed from earth, there was abundant and eloquent proof of the splendid realization of their most ardent hopes.

But to carry into effect this double work of benevolence and practical progress, the Freemasons of Allegheny County required organization and unity of action. There could of course be formed easily enough Masonic organizations for charitable purposes. But the proposed Masonic Society was to have a much wider scope, for it was to be a center from which should radiate good effects in all directions. The Pittsburgh Freemasons in those early days had to overcome the usual trying handicaps that all pioneers must meet. It was a long and laborious journey to the Grand Lodge in Philadelphia in those times, and it was a much more difficult work than it is now for our world-wide Fraternity to firmly establish itself in remote districts and spread in numbers and in influence. It was even very diffi-

cult for the lodges to secure abiding places. In fact, for more than half a century prior to the formation of the Masonic Fund Society the lodges had been literally "driven from pillar to post;" meeting in the upper stories of taverns in those pioneer days, or in rooms in dwelling houses or in the lofts of business buildings. Twice in Pittsburgh they were scattered by disastrous conflagrations and almost continually they were bothered and vexed by the problem of finding permanent locations for lodge meetings.

So when in 1847 they planned their proposed work of benevolence and practical progress, they held in view not only the necessity of securing meeting places for the Masonic Bodies then in existence in their community, but also the need of a permanent and recognized Masonic center—a central place for meetings—which should consist of an edifice devoted mainly, if not wholly, to Masonic uses. To realize that big project they had decided that they required an organization with special powers and which should be invested with authority, both by the provisions of a proper Charter and by the endorsement of the brethren in Pittsburgh, to purchase, control and supervise such grounds and buildings as might be needed by the Order; to conduct financial transactions connected therewith, and to make adequate provision not only for the immediate but also for the future expansion and requirements of the Craft. It was for the distinct purpose of realizing and carrying forward these large designs that the Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny was brought into existence. And so in their Charter of 1849 they provided as follows:

> The Trustees shall have power to purchase, take and hold to them and their successors and assigns, and of selling and transferring in fee simple or for any less estate, such lands, tenements and hereditaments as shall be sold, devised, conveyed or granted to them by deed, bequest, or otherwise, and should the Society deem it necessary and proper to erect a suitable building in the city of Pittsburg as a place for meeting or for the purpose of revenue, the Trustees shall or may proceed to construct the same, and to provide the means of paying therefor.

Thus we find plainly set forth, in its Charter, the plan of the organization of the Masonic Fund Society and a re-

cital of its great purposes. But naturally we do not find in the Charter a narrative of the causes which compelled the creation of the Society, nor the long series of interesting historical developments that reached their first fruition in the completion of the fine Masonic Hall in the city of Pittsburgh in the year 1851. It is to this narrative that this chapter is devoted.

It was in the year 1811 that the Pittsburgh Masonic brethren had the fine satisfaction of possessing for the first time their own Masonic Hall. But even our justified pride in the early achievements of the local fraternity does not permit us to say that in that year they really had a "Hall," much less a "Temple." At any rate, they did get into their own building. It was probably a little structure of two stories and it cost about $500. But let us not regard with levity this actually important achievement. The sum of $500 was a goodly sum 110 years ago in the village of Pittsburgh, and much more could be secured for that amount at that period in the way of material, labor and the necessities of life than a like sum will bring in these times of the high cost of living.

But at what places in the village of Pittsburgh did our Masonic brethren hold their lodge meetings prior to the year 1811 before they had a general building in which to meet? We have no precise records with which to answer that question in satisfactory detail. But from the meagre glimpses we get of the doings of those early times, it is evident that for the most part the lodges convened in the upper rooms of local taverns. The fine old word "tavern" has now practically slipped into oblivion, as unnecessary and inappropriate. But there is still this much to say in its favor: It has left behind it a memory replete with more geniality, more cordiality and more significant historical value than our debased word "saloon" and our pretentious word "hotel" will ever leave behind them when finally they shall be cast into the rubbish heap of discarded words. Brother Charles W. Dahlinger who has delved into the past of our great city, gives this bit of information in his "Sketches of the Early Life of Pittsburgh:"

"In the taverns men used to consummate their business and dis-

cuss political and social affairs. Lodge No. 45, of the Ancient York Masons, met in taverns for many years, as did the Mechanical Society. Even the Board of Trustees of the Academy held their meetings there.

Prior to March 6, 1809, when Ohio Lodge, No. 113, long ago gone out of existence, was constituted, Lodge 45 comprised all the membership of the Masonic brethren in Allegheny county; and included in that membership were most of the leading men of the community of those days. Among them were men of renown with names known beyond State lines, and they loom up large in the local history of their days. For those large-minded Americans, Masonry had a vast significance. They esteemed it as a thing apart from the hurly-burly of life, and they deemed it necessary to have, as far as was then possible, appropriate places for lodge gatherings.

About the year 1805 a brick house, built by William Irwin, a leading citizen of Pittsburgh, was completed on the southeast corner of Market and Diamond Streets. By some arrangement, details of which are no longer known, Lodge 45, that venerable pioneer lodge of Western Pennsylvania, secured the rental of a room on the third story of this structure, and met there, being joined some months later by Ohio Lodge, No. 113, long since gone out of existence. Four years later, in 1809, the Masons made their first move toward securing their first exclusively owned property. The ground was bought in 1809. In that year, as is shown by a deed of date of July 26, 1809, recorded in the Recorder's Office for the County of Allegheny, Pa., the Masons bought from William McCullough and his wife Jane, a lot on Wood street near the corner of Fifth avenue, Pittsburgh, the site now occupied by the imposing First National Bank building. This conveyance of the land, which of course was an actual sale, was put in the form of a perpetual lease, with a ground rent reserved. The purchasers of this property from McCullough and his wife, as set down in the deed, were Brothers George Robinson, James Riddle, Thomas Baird, John McDowell, James Kerwin and Henry Haslet, all members of Lodge 45. This purchase was made a little more than three months after the constitution of

old Ohio Lodge, and at that time this body and Lodge 45 were the only lodges in existence in Pittsburgh. The lot on Wood street is described in the deed as follows:

> Beginning on Wood street at the distance of fifty feet from the corner of Wood and Fifth streets, and running thence by Wood street towards Liberty street twenty-five feet, thence by a line running parallel with Fifth street forty feet, thence by a line running parallel with Wood street twenty-five feet towards Fifth street, and thence by a line running parallel with Fifth street forty feet to the place of beginning.

The sale of the property was, as has been said, in the form of a perpetual lease, with the reservation of a ground rent. The lessees were to pay to McCullough and his heirs forever an annual rental of "fifty Spanish milled dollars, or the value thereof, in current or silver money," in half-yearly payments, on the first day of April and October. Another provision of the deed recites that "within the space of two years from the date hereof," the purchasers are to "erect, set up and finish upon the premises hereby demised, a good and substantial dwelling house of the value of five hundred dollars," and to pay all the "public taxes." The brethren then proceeded to create a legal Masonic ownership and title to the property. They executed and placed on record a deed of trust, in which it is set forth that the purchasers of the land are to hold it "in trust for the use of the Master, Warden and Brethren of Lodge 45, Ancient York Masons, held in the Borough of Pittsburgh under the authority of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and their successors."

The stipulation in the deed for an annual rental of "fifty Spanish milled dollars" was a common feature in conveyances of land in this community in those early days, and for years later. It had its origin in the then very general use of Spanish coins in this country. The Act of Congress of July 6, 1785, established a national American currency, the unit being the dollar, equal at that time in value to the Spanish milled dollar. This Spanish coin continued to be in circulation throughout the States until the passage by Congress of the Act of April 2, 1792, establishing a United States Mint. So that, as all the transfers of this lot made prior to its sale in 1809 to the Masons had been made payable in Spanish milled dollars, naturally a like payment of

the ground rent was stipulated in the deed conveying it to the Masonic brethren.

In accordance with the provisions of the deed of 1809, the construction of the building, apparently two stories high, was completed within the two years stipulated. The money necessary to erect it was secured by advance loans from the six trustees named above, by donations from 45 and from individual members of the Order. The structure was of course small and lowly in aspect. But nevertheless it was a Masonic Hall, which served its good purpose and should be kept in grateful remembrance by the brethren of today. But if the building had no adornments on the exterior, the hall, where the lodges met and which was on the top floor, was appropriately and artistically decorated. The ceiling was concave and painted upon it were Masonic symbols, and handsome pedestals and an altar were in place. It is not known whether or not William McCullough, who sold the lot to the Masons, was a member of the Craft; but certainly he was kindly disposed toward the brethren, a fact shown by the terms of an agreement put on record with the deed above mentioned. Mr. McCullough owned a brick dwelling house on the lot adjoining the one transferred to the Masons, and in the agreement he gives permission to the new owners to "build a room against the gable end of my brick house." He also gives them the "free use of four square feet of my ground adjoining the northwest corner of the premises," sold to the Masons, "in order," as the agreement further stipulates, "that they may have the privilege of admitting light into their building."

Evidently the little Hall, which faced Wood street about fifty feet from the corner of the present Fifth avenue, was ready for occupancy early in the summer of 1811, for the minutes of a meeting of Ohio Lodge, No. 113, of date of June 15, 1811, give this information:

> An invitation from Lodge No. 45 was read, requesting this Lodge to join them in the procession on St. John's Day in order to dedicate their new Lodge Room, which invitation was accepted by this Lodge, and Brethren Adams and Murray were directed to wait on the W. M. of Lodge 45 to inform him thereof.

And so the brethren had now a building and they had a lodge room, and they proceeded to dedicate it with due and impressive ceremonies on St. John's Day of 1811, which fell on Monday, June 24. Interesting and significant is it to know too, that on the very day of this Pittsburgh dedication, the Grand Lodge at Philadelphia dedicated with imposing ceremonies their new Hall on Chestnut street in that city. The Grand Lodge records preserve in written form ample details of their ceremonies. But of the details of the little event in the remote and distant borough of Pittsburgh none are to be found.

Apparently for some time, probably until the year 1816, Lodge No. 45 occupied the Wood street buildings alone. But in that year, 1816, Ohio Lodge, which was at that time meeting in the Irwin building at the southeast corner of Market street and the square known as the "Diamond," moved into the Wood street building, and perhaps it was then the home of the Encampment, as the Knights Templar bodies were then designated, and also the Chapter, these bodies then existing under the sanction of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. The directory of Pittsburgh for the year 1815 mentions the above named two bodies and also Lodge 45 and Ohio Lodge, No. 113, as the only Masonic organizations in Pittsburgh at that date. That Directory notes that Lodge 45 met "at the Masonic Hall in Wood street," and that Ohio Lodge convened "at the S. E. corner of Market street and the Diamond." The Directory for the year 1819 gives the locations of the Pittsburgh Masonic bodies as follows: "Mark Lodge at the Masonic Hall in Front street;" Lodge 45 "at the Masonic Hall on Wood street; Ohio Lodge "at the Masonic Hall on Front street;" Milnor Lodge No. 165, in the same place, and Church Lodge No. 145, constituted February 5, 1816, met "at Wilkinsburg on the Mondays preceding full moon." The Hall mentioned above as being on Front street comprised a part of the upper story of a warehouse rented from William B. Foster. Sometime in the year 1816 Ohio Lodge moved to the Masonic Hall on Wood street, where Lodge 45 had met since 1811.

By the year 1819 the membership of the Masonic bod-

ies in Pittsburgh, particularly the Blue Lodges, was notably increasing. The brethren needed more commodious meeting places and the demand for a central "hall" or even "Temple," was becoming insistent. The field was being prepared for the labors of the future Masonic Fund Society, and doubtless even at that early date such an organization was foreshadowed. According to lodge minutes which have come down to us definite action toward securing a larger Masonic meeting place for the bodies was taken early in the year 1822. In June of that year Lodge 45 held a meeting "for the purpose of taking into consideration a proposition for the purpose of building a Masonic Hall." In July of the same year it was decided to sell the Wood street property, bought in 1809. In August, 1822, it was sold to Benjamin Darlington, the then well known proprietor of the Darlington Hotel, which had been erected at the corner of Wood street and Fifth avenue, then known as a "street." This hotel property abutted on the lot bought from the Masons. The minutes of a meeting of Lodge 45 held August 21, 1822, state the transaction as follows:

> The W. M. reported that the officers of the lodge, being a committee appointed for that purpose, have contracted with Benjamin Darlington for the sale to him of the building or Masonic Hall which belonged to this Lodge, for the sum of $1,250, payable in twelve months, with interest from and after the first day of October next.

This deed was made November 29, 1822, Brother Charles Shaler, later the distinguished jurist and Trustee of the Masonic Fund Society, being then Worshipful Master of the lodge. Having bought the lot from the Masons, Mr. Darlington added the building used by the Craft to his hotel building. Speaking about this purchase, William M. Darlington, a son of the hotel proprietor, said, in giving his recollections of General Lafayette's visit to Pittsburgh in 1825:

> The room in which Lafayette slept at the Mansion House, to my boyish notions, was the most magnificent ever constructed. It had for many years been the lodge room of the Free Masons. The ceiling was arched, painted with figures of the sun, moon and stars. When the Masonic sale was made, the decorations were allowed to remain.

And it may well be imagined that as the beloved French patriot, himself a world-renowned Free Mason, gazed upon those fading decorations upon the ceiling of his sleeping room, his memory went lovingly back to the great days of the Revolution when he and Washington sat side by side in meetings held by military lodges in the American army.

Having thus sold its ground and Hall on Wood street near Fifth street, Lodge 45 and Ohio Lodge took up their habitation in the Foster warehouse on Water street, then known as Front street. There was then in the year 1822, no property owned in Pittsburgh by the Masonic bodies. But every now and then, as is shown by minutes of the lodges, the brethren put forth suggestions for the purchase of land and the construction of another Masonic building, which should be owned by the bodies in general. However, nothing in this respect was reached definitely until about the year 1828, when negotiations were begun for the purchase of a property owned by George Darsie, then a member of Lodge 45. He was at that time in partnership with John McGill, a member of old Milnor Lodge, No. 165. The firm was known as McGill & Darsie, furniture manufacturers. Mr. Darsie then owned the lot at the northwest corner of Smithfield and Third streets. In those days the word "avenue" was not in popular use, the present "avenues" being at that time all known as "streets."

The firm of McGill & Darsie were making arrangements to put up a building for business purposes. The local Masonic bodies, seeing their opportunity, entered into negotiations with Mr. Darsie, by which as they doubtless then understood, they were to get title to one-third of the lot and that Mr. Darsie was to erect thereon a three story building and furnish the third story for the use of the Masons, to be occupied by them "forever free of rent." On the part of the lodges, the stipulation was that Lodge 45 "should pay $1,000 cash," and that the individual Masons "in Pittsburgh and vicinity" were to raise by subscription $1,500 more. It was afterwards claimed by the brethren that they had scrupulously fulfilled their part of the agreement; but that although they paid the money required and took possession of the upper story of the building as their meeting

place and remained there until the fire of 1845, they had never received any deed from Mr. Darsie, and that therefore when a contest over the title arose the Masons had no formal conveyance proving their title to the one-third part of the lot, nor had they any written evidence to show that they were to have the use of the third story free of rent. The structure erected by Mr. Darsie was, as has been said, three stories in height, built of brick, and the Masonic room or hall could be entered only by an entrance reached by means of an outside stairway running up from the Third street side of the building.

By the year 1830 the third story was occupied by the Craft, and they continued to use it until the conflagration of 1845 destroyed it totally.

It is at this period that we come across the first practical movement among the Pittsburgh Masons towards a closer range of united action on the part of the various local Bodies. The Masonic membership of those days, the same as today, included many of the most prominent and influential business and professional men of the community. These men, seeing the past successful achievements of the Craft, decided to work for its future. They saw the necessity of better business guidance in Masonic affairs, apart from the work of the Bodies; and this necessity was made more apparent by certain developments following the catastrophe of the year 1845. These developments resulted from the historical law suit between the Masons and Mr. Darsie after the great fire. As this episode has never been clearly and adequately presented, and as it had a direct bearing on the influences which led to the creation of the Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny, it is given here at some length and with details not heretofore published.

Apparently a year or so before the conflagration of 1845 contentions began to arise as to the title of the Masons to the one-third part of the lot on which was erected the building in which they had their Hall. It had become known that Mr. Darsie had in 1838, eight years after the beginning of the occupancy of the Masons, transferred by deed an undivided two-thirds part of the lot to one Freder-

ick Bauder. The structure of which the Masons used the third story stood on the part of the ground deeded to Bauder. But it was stipulated in his deed that the Masonic fraternity was to have perpetual possession and use of the third story. It was later claimed that, according to the conveyance to Bauder, the brethren had no title whatever to a third of the lot and had only the possession and use of a part of the building. The Masons protested. They contended that they had purchased for the sum of $2,500 a one-third part of the lot, and that it was on this one-third part that the building they partly occupied stood. There arose also a question of rents, it being claimed by Darsie that the Masons were, according to the original arrangement, to pay an annual rental and that the $2,500 furnished by the brethren in 1830 was intended to cover future rentals and not to pay for any portion of the ground.

Unfortunately for the fraternity, they had never, as stated above, received a deed to any part of the lot; so that when the great disaster of 1845 destroyed the building and the disagreement got into the courts, they had no deed or other written evidence to offer. The controversy, as has been stated, began before the great fire, Darsie wanted the Masons to get out of the building, pay the rent arrearages he claimed and acknowledge that they had no title to any part of the ground. But the brethren would not resign their claim to title, nor admit that they had ever obligated themselves to pay any rent, nor would they move out. Then the contention developed into litigation, in the form of an action of ejectment against the Masons. In January, 1845, about three months before the terrible fire, John McGill and George Darsie, as plaintiffs, brought the suit and a writ of ejectment was issued and served on Brother William Gillespie, who was then tyler of Lodge 45. It was held that as he was, as tyler, "the most immediate in possession", he was the proper one upon whom to serve the writ. Being thus brought into court, the Masons, in a sort of general convention, appointed a committee of leading brethren to collect funds and employ counsel. The brethren forming this committee were: John Birmingham, Samuel McKinley, George Armor, Alexander McCammon and Richard Cowan,

all prominent citizens of Pittsburgh. They secured the services of Attorneys Cowan and Brentlinger as counsel, while Lawyers Metcalf and Loomis were counsel for the plaintiffs. The usual plea of "not guilty" was entered by the Masons in February. Then in the following April came the great conflagration, which destroyed the Darsie building and of course the Masonic Hall and its contents.

Some weeks after the fire it became known that Bauder, the person to whom Darsie had previously transferred a two-thirds part of the lot in question, had, since the fire, released, for a consideration, this two-thirds interest to both McGill and Darsie. Later on the case came to trial, and the different parties presented their claims as follows:

Darsie and McGill contended that when they were about to erect a building on the lot in question in the year 1828 they made arrangements with the Masons "to finish the third story of the structure for a Masonic Hall." McGill and Darsie were to receive $2,500 from the Masons, which sum was to be raised by the latter by the sale of 100 shares of stock, "each share to be $25," and the lodges occupying the hall were to pay a rent sufficient to pay the stockholders 6 per cent."

In their claim, Darsie and McGill further set forth that:—Lodge 45 took $1,000 of this stock, and a portion of the balance of the $2,500 was held by individual members of the Order. The lodge not paying any rent for a number of years, most of the individual stockholders became dissatisfied and "urged us to purchase the stock, which we did, to more than one-half of the amount at par value. We were induced to do so to enforce the payment of the rent of the lodge. Lodges Nos. 113, 165, and the Chapter in the meantime were dissolved, or were merged in Lodge 45, which was then the only lodge left to which we could look for the interest on our stock. We made several propositions, that if they would pay up the interest due and give an assurance of payment for the future, we would make a conveyance of the title. To these no attention was paid. We never had any agreement with Lodge 45, other than as a stockholder.

On the side of the Masons it was shown that Lodge 45 had paid $1,000 to Mr. Darsie and that individual members belonging to Lodges 45, No. 165 and 113 had added an additional sum of $1,500, thus making in all a total of $2,500 which had been turned over to Mr. Darsie. The contention of the Masons was set forth as follows:

Mr. Darsie proposed to build a Masonic Hall on his lot for the accommodation of the brethren. After some preliminary arrangements, this was agreed to, to-wit: First, that Lodge 45 should pay $1,000 cash. Second, that the individual Masons in Pittsburg and vi-

cinity should raise by subscription $1,500 more, and pay it over to Mr. Darsie, as he might need it during the progress of the building operations. In consideration of this amount of money, Mr. Darsie stipulated, first, to transfer to Lodge 45 the one undivided third of his said lot of ground at Smithfield and Third streets. Second, to finish the third story of the Masonic Hall building for the use and purposes of the Masons, to be used and occupied forever free of rent. The Lodge and the individual subscribers to the fund performed their part of the contract, but Mr. Darsie never did make out a deed to the lodge for the lot, and the fire of 1845 deprived the Masons of their hall. Previous to the fire, Mr. Darsie sold two-thirds of the lot occupied by Masonic Hall to Mr. Bauder, not pretending to have any right to the other third of the lot, which he had promised to deed to the lodge. It should be remembered that Mr. Darsie, when he sold to Mr. Bauder reserved the third story of the building from sale, as it belonged, with a one-third part of the lot, to the lodge and to the individual members of the Order. In the assessment of taxes (prior to 1845) on the property, Mr. Darsie took care to have the lodge assessed distinctly as one-third owner of the property; and Lodge 45 regularly every year paid the tax, until after the 1845 fire, when Mr. Darsie took possession of the lot; and the reason given for this action is that as Lodge 45 cannot show a deed for the lot, it has no title to any part of the land.

Whatever may have been the merits as to the question of title, the action of ejectment was promptly disposed of when the matter got before the court. McGill and Darsie, the plaintiffs, lost by being non-suited. The final entries on the old docket in the Allegheny court house read as follows:

October 1st, 1845—Plff. non suit.

October 9th, 1845—Discontinued and costs, $5.72, paid by Mr. McGill.

As a matter of fact, the contention as to the title to the one-third of the lot was never judicially determined. But the controversy left no scars. The claim of the Masons to title seems to have been dropped by mutual and friendly consent, and according to the meager records the whole matter wound up by the payment by Mr. Darsie of $100 to the Masons, in return perhaps for a quit-claim deed. There is ground for the belief that there was misunderstanding on both sides. No papers in the way of agreements or contracts had ever been drawn up, and as a period of fifteen years had elapsed from the time of the first arrangements until the matter got into dispute, each side could, through lack of written evidence, reach certain

conclusions, more or less well founded.

The great conflagration which on April 10, 1845, swept over a large portion of the city of Pittsburgh has become one of the historic catastrophes of the United States. It entailed much suffering on the part of the citizens and an enormous loss financially. It was a calamity for our Masonic brethren of those days. But it was one from which, with little outside aid, they recovered speedily. Their hall had been totally destroyed and practically everything in it was devoured by the flames. In this hall at Smithfield and Third streets the Masons had been meeting for fifteen years, and it is quite likely that despite the litigation over the title to the property, they would have continued to meet there for some years more. They had fitted up the hall appropriately and attractively during their occupancy of it. It had been constructed solely for Masonic uses, and its capacity was still adequate to meet the requirements of the fraternity. How completely the property, records, etc., of the lodges were destroyed is signalized by the following entry in the minutes of the Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge held September 7, 1846:

The Grand Secretary stated that he had received from Bro. Alexander McCammon, of Pittsburg, a trunk containing a number of collars, aprons and books of the late Lodges No. 113 & 165 held at that place, and that Bro. McCammon informed him that the jewels and Warrants of said Lodges were either burned or lost at the great fire which took place in 1845.

At this period the only Masonic lodge existing in Pittsburgh was Lodge 45, Lodges 113 and 165 having gone out of existence. What Lodge 45 suffered, and how actually it was in need of financial aid, is shown by the following record from the Grand Lodge proceedings, December 15, 1845:

A communication was received from Lodge 45 at Pittsburgh, stating the loss which the lodge had met with in the great fire, which occurred in that place April last, and praying the Grand Lodge to remit the dues which will be owing up to December 27th next.

When on motion duly made and seconded, the request of Lodge No. 45 was granted and dues remitted up to December 27th, 1845.

Another of the immediate unfortunate results of the catastrophe was the failure, for the time being, of the plans to revive old Milnor Lodge, No. 165, which had been war-

ranted in the year 1819 and had gone out of existence in 1837. In 1844 some of the brethren who had been members of the old lodge made application for a charter for reorganization. The application was favorably acted on by the Grand Lodge and about the first of April, 1845, the warrant arrived in Pittsburgh. But on the very day the lodge was to be constituted, April 10, the great fire broke out, and the new warrant was destroyed with Masonic Hall. It was not until 1846 that the present Milnor Lodge was organized.

There is to be found in the June, 1845, number of that valuable old magazine, the "American Masonic Register," published then in Albany, N. Y., by Bro. L. G. Hoffman, a sympathetic request for aid for the afflicted Masons at Pittsburgh, in which the editor says: "If ever a case required Masonic sympathy and aid it is this one. Our readers are already aware that nearly the whole of Pittsburgh has been destroyed by fire, and that thousands who were but a few hours before enjoying all the comforts of life, have now been left in a most deplorable state of wretchedness."

A few days after the fire an appeal, now of much Masonic historic interest, was sent from Pittsburgh to various parts of the United States asking for aid for the suffering brethren. It was signed by Brothers Richard Cowan, Alexander McCammon and Samuel McKinley, the two latter later becoming members of the first Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society. This appeal which has never been reprinted and which was long ago supposed to be entirely lost, is here reproduced, after an oblivion of over three-quarters of a century, in its exact wording:

Whereas, in the Dispensation of Divine Providence we have been visited with the most destructive calamity that has possibly ever befel any people, there being not less than from fifteen hundred to two thousand families not only homeless, but without the necessities of life. Many of them are brethren, some of whom are penniless.

And whereas, our beautiful Temple, in which so oft we have met, to adore the Supreme Architect of the Universe, together with all of our jewels and furniture, have been destroyed, thereby leaving us destitute of a hall to meet in, and, if not assisted by our brethren at a distance, the means to procure one. And, whereas, believing it to be the birth-right of every Mason to call upon a Brother Mason in the hour of distress, we, under our present embarrassment, are com-

HOME OF PITTSBURGH FREEMASONS
After Great Fire of 1845.
At Wood and Third Streets.

pelled to appeal to the benevolence of our brethren for aid to assist in the rebuilding of our hall.

Therefore, Resolved, that R. Cowan, A. McCammon and S. McKinley be a committee to correspond with Lodges at a distance, soliciting aid to assist in the rebuilding of our hall destroyed by the late fire.

R. COWAN,
A. McCAMMON,
S. McKINLEY,
} Committee.

Not a very considerable amount in the way of donations was received by the afflicted brethren in Pittsburgh and it is evident that practically all of the contributions received from a distance were used to alleviate the distress among the individual brethren. None of these contributions seem to have been utilized in any manner towards defraying the cost of the erection of a new hall.

But the spirit of hope and progress dominated the Masonic brethren in the very midst of their affliction, and they at once set about securing new quarters. Having for a time no place of meeting, the Lodge 45 for several weeks convened in the back room of the residence of Brother Samuel McKinley, in the old city of Allegheny. This house is still standing on Rebecca street, the present owner being the daughter of Brother McKinley. Less than a month after the fire they were again in a Masonic Hall. They had rented from Mr. Darsie, the opponent in the lawsuit, the three story brick business building which stood, until about 20 years ago, at the northeast corner of Wood street and Third avenue, then known as Third street. This structure the Masons never owned, but they rented it and remained there until the opening of their elegant new Masonic Hall on Fifth avenue in 1851.

In truth, as soon as they got settled down in their hall at Wood and Third streets, they seem to have come to the conclusion that it would be well to wait awhile before they entered definitely into the important plan of erecting a hall upon land of their own. They decided to put that project off for a time, and it was a wise decision. For out of the losses and the miseries of the flames seemed to have arisen strength and progress for the Masonic fraternity. Within a year's time there came a remarkable increase in the membership of the Order in Pittsburgh. In March, 1846, St.

John's Lodge, No. 219, was constituted, and Franklin Lodge, No. 221, came into existence in September of the same year. In September, 1847, came Allegheny Lodge, No. 223. In the meantime another encouraging situation developed. There had been a sharp contention between the Grand Lodge and the Masonic brethren in Pittsburgh over the dissolution by the Grand Master of the old Fifth District, in which for years Pittsburgh had been the center, always having furnished the District Deputy Grand Master. But weighed down by the burdens of the anti-masonic persecutions and by a stress of hard times, all the lodges in Allegheny county, with the exception of Lodge 45, had gone down, and in the year 1844 the Allegheny county brethren saw their district disrupted and, worse still, their county tacked on to another district with a deputy named from a far distant locality in Western Pennsylvania. Elsewhere in this volume is a detailed account of this very interesting and historically significant chapter of Masonry in Allegheny county. As a result of and as an end to the differences over this question, the Grand Lodge established, "as a principle for her future government the necessity of having at least five subordinate lodges to constitute a district and be entitled to the privilege of a Deputy Grand Master." The result of this decision was the revival of the old Fifth district at the beginning of the year 1847, with Brother Samuel McKinley named as the district deputy, with the district embracing the counties of Allegheny, Beaver and Westmoreland. This settlement of the difficulty gave great satisfaction and encouragement to the Pittsburgh Masons. Their county was becoming very prominent and progressive in lines of manufacture and business; many of the most influential citizens were members of the Craft and the Order was becoming not only numerically strong throughout Allegheny county, but also it was plainly becoming a large and beneficial factor in the civic life of the community. The Masonic brethren therefore justly felt that they had a right to claim that Pittsburgh should be again, as it had been for many years previously, the center of the Fifth District, with a District Deputy Grand Master selected from the Craft in Pittsburgh. And with the un-

tiring and devoted Brother Samuel McKinley as their deputy they could look into the future with confidence.

But a period of six years was to elapse from the date of the great fire before the Pittsburgh Masons should find themselves finally established in a Masonic Hall, owned by themselves, and commodious enough for their numerical growth and fully representative of the ancient renown of their great brotherhood. They had rented after the fire, as has been stated, the third story of the building at Wood and Third streets, and they proceeded to fit up the place properly. Then certain of their leaders began to develop plans for the erection of a large Masonic Hall. They recalled that Washington and his generals, and private soldiers, too, had during the wild days of the Revolution sat as Masons in humble dignity in a crude little structure built in the forests near West Point. But in the form and fittings of even that frail structure were embodied at least some remembrances of the glorious Temple on Mount Moriah and the ceremonies of the venerable Fraternity had always marked all their work in the war lodge. For it has ever been a principle, and wherever possible a practice, to provide for the Order a visible habitation, in which the genius of the architect and the skill of the artisan should unite to give expression to the beauty, the teachings and the dignity of our ancient institution. To the outside world a Masonic Hall or Temple has a meaning in accordance with its architectural charm and impressiveness. But to the Mason his Hall or Temple is itself a symbol; and therefore, so far as their means will allow, the Masons of any community have an honorable ambition to possess a building which shall typify the imposing edifice of King Solomon and express the dignity and high influence of the fraternity.

Such reflections came to the minds of that intelligent and striking group of Pittsburgh Masons who assumed the responsible positions of overseers of the future work, when the catastrophe of the year 1845 brought the brethren face to face with the necessity of providing largely and properly for the future of the local brotherhood. They decided to erect a commodious Masonic building and to create an

organization of a special kind. From these conceptions came into being the "Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny." To their fine ideals they united practical and methodical plans. They had a great task before them. But they were men of the right stamp.

The first seven Trustees of the Society of Allegheny comprised a group of Pittsburgh citizens notably well qualified to initiate and carry through the big and fine work of providing a new Masonic Hall and also of uniting the influences of modern progress with the high aims of Masonic teachings. James W. Hailman was a leader in the great iron industry and later a power in the financial world. Samuel McKinley was a much esteemed citizen and prominent as a paint merchant and contracting painter. William W. Wilson was a leading jeweler and much concerned in methods for municipal improvements. James S. Hoon was experienced as a banker and in financial investments. George W. Layng was a lawyer of ability and active in civic affairs. Alexander McCammon was favorably known first as a merchant and later as an alderman, and John Sargent was prominent in business circles.

Behind these men and zealously supporting them in their great Masonic undertakings, was another group of brethren, ardent promoters of Masonic advancement. They numbered among them Judge Charles Shaler and Judge Wilson McCandless, men of strong intellect and influence; Thomas Davage, a prominent manufacturer who had seen much of the world as a sailor in his younger years; James S. Herdman, of large experience as a merchant and later as a banker. And there were also Brothers Alexander Tindle, Col. William Phillips, John Birmingham, Alexander Spear and others, all men and Masons in high esteem as leading and useful citizens. Considering the importance and difficulty of the work these brethren had set out to accomplish, the financial cost of the undertaking, the then comparatively numerical weakness of the Pittsburgh Fraternity, and the inevitable differences of opinion that would naturally develop, the question, How did they begin? comes at once to the front. And that is not an easy question to answer satisfactorily in detail, for the reason that there

remain almost no official records or other sources of information to guide us, prior to the first meeting of the first Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society. Practically nothing is to be learned as to the development of the Society from the minutes of Lodge meetings of those days. It is true, that in some of these meetings desultory propositions looking to the erection of a Masonic Hall were put forth. But in the lodges nothing further in that respect was ever reached. We must therefore accept the conclusion that the brethren who inaugurated and perfected the formation of the Masonic Fund Society, whose notable existence has extended over an interrupted period of more than seventy-five years, discussed the details, formulated their plans and adopted ways and means wherever they could get together to solve the problems. Doubtless most of the preliminary work was arranged and provided for in their offices and places of business. And this was not the labor of months; for they had talked about their plans, formulated their mode of operation and arranged for financial backing years before they had evolved a practical and complete design.

At last in the latter part of the year 1847 they let it be known that they had sufficiently worked out their plans and their mode of procedure for the purchase of land, the creation of a guiding financial organization and the erection of a Masonic Hall. The matter was presented to and discussed in the various Masonic bodies in Pittsburgh, and the proposition was accepted and enthusiastically supported to the end by the brethren generally.

Then having gone that far and having received that strong fraternal endorsement, the promoters of the great enterprise secured, through the district deputy, a Convocation of the brethren. This assemblage convened in the Hall at Wood and Third streets, and it assembled on a notable date—Christmas Day, December 25, 1847. Four Lodges then existed in the city of Pittsburgh, in addition to an Encampment, (as the Commandery was known in those days), a Chapter and a Council. These Bodies were Lodge 45, St. John's Lodge, No. 219; Franklin Lodge, No. 221; Allegheny Lodge, No. 223; Pittsburgh Commandery, No. 1;

Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162, R. A. M.; and Mt. Moriah Chapter, R. and S. Masons.

This Convocation of December 25, 1847, is of great historical interest. It not only marked the beginning of the immense strides Masonry has made in Allegheny county, but it was also the first practical expression, in a general assembly of local Masons, of that fine sentiment of solidarity and unified action which has ever since so splendidly characterized the Masonic Fraternity of Pittsburgh. And because of its great value historically, we could well wish that we had an extended report of its proceedings. But there is no such report extant. Fortunately, however, we have an official record which while all too brief, still provides sufficient data to show what was done. Brother William W. Wilson, who was then a member of Franklin Lodge, No. 221, but who represented the Chapter in the Convocation, was chosen as its secretary, and Brother William Porter, who had long been a member of Lodge 45, was made presiding officer. This first record, which in the old Minute Book of the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society is unsigned, but was doubtless placed there by Secretary Porter, is in exactly the following words and form:

Pittsburgh, Decem 25, 1847.

Agreeably to a call the craft assembled in convocation in the lodge room. Bro. William Porter was called to the chair and Bro. W. W. Wilson Secry.

Bro. S. McKinley stated the object of the meeting to be the consideration of purchasing a lot of ground and the erection thereon of a Masonic Hall.

On motion a committee of seven of the brethren (one from each of the Masonic bodies now in existence) was appointed viz.

From the encampment	Bro Alex McCammon
From the chapter	Bro S. McKinley
From the council	Bro W. W. Wilson
From Lodge No. 45	Bro James S. Hoon
From Lodge No. 219	Bro Geo. W. Layng
From Lodge No. 221	Bro James W. Hailman
From Lodge No. 223	Bro John Sargent

On motion it was resolved that the Convocation adjourn until January 1st. 1848 in order to give time to the Committee to prepare a report.

Adjourned.

In the first month of the following year, 1848, the Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny came into actual and permanent existence. This was a very important period in the history of Masonry in Pennsylvania. Having by this time run its course, the dire effects of the anti-masonic furore were disappearing rapidly, and the fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons in the Keystone State was fast recovering its former prosperity. Lodges which had ceased to work were again open for labor; new lodges were constituted, and the work as well as the finances of subordinate lodges and of the Grand Lodge again flourished, and thus the foundation for our present prosperity was happily and permanently laid. For the growing city of Pittsburgh it was a time of progress and rejuvenation. The city was recovering in a remarkable manner from the disasters of the conflagration of 1845. It will not, we think, be amiss to give here some glimpses into the status of the community as furnished by records of those days. In that interesting little volume printed by Isaac Harris in the year 1847, entitled, "Harris's General Business Directory for the Cities of Pittsburgh & Allegheny, with Environs," we read the following:

> We have lived in Pittsburgh near half a century. When we came first to it, a little boy about ten years of age, the population was scarcely a thousand, and not a real good brick house in it. We now estimate it in the two cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny, and the boroughs and townships immediately around within a circle of about five miles, at full, if not more, than one hundred thousand of a population, which we believe our next census will more than sustain.*** When we came to Pittsburgh, it had but one small log church, where a clergyman preached to a very small congregation; and also a small place at the old Fort, at the Point, in a room in a brew house, built of old Fort Pitt Brick, where a few zealous Methodist people met to worship. The citizens of Pittsburgh are now a church-going people, and they have in the two cities and towns around in a circle of about five miles, upwards of one hundred good churches, and as many Sabbath schools, and about 125 clergymen.

Extensive building operations were going on, especially in the large area devastated by the great fire. A local newspaper of June, 1847, proudly declares:

> Those who do not extend their jaunts beyond the original four wards of the city, can form no idea of the number of buildings which

are in the progress of erection. In some of the new wards there are whole blocks of fine buildings going up. There is an ordinance in force prohibiting the erection of wooden buildings, and consequently when our citizens conclude to build, they put up well arranged and substantial brick houses.

Another local chronicle of date of October 6, 1847, gives this information under the caption, "The Burnt District:"

There have been erected between Smithfield and Grant streets and Diamond alley and Fourth street 24 dwelling houses, stores, etc.; between Third and Fourth streets and Smithfield and Grant streets 33 buildings; between Second and Third streets and Smithfield and Grant streets 84, with several now constructing; between First and Second streets and Smithfield and Grant, 31 and several building; between Water and First and Smithfield and Grant streets 34. Most of the above buildings are much larger and better than those destroyed by the great fire.

Real estate values were rising vigorously, too. As to that feature, a local newspaper of August, 1847, has this to say:

Almost three years ago nearly one-half of the most wealthy and business portion of our city was but a heap of ruins. She has arisen, as by magic, from ashes and flames, and is now in the full tide of prosperity. Notwithstanding our energies were crippled by this great calamity, the value of real estate has been steadily on the increase.

But the chief advancement which marked the city's speedy and brilliant progress was the opening into Western Pennsylvania of the first steam railway lines. Within the limits of the city the means of transportation were such as we in our day might loftily describe as crude. Horses then, of course, drew all the vehicles, and the convenient miseries of street car service were still unknown. Our early worthy builders of Pittsburgh travelled in those times, if they wanted to go some distance into the country, in big rumbling omnibusses. It was then, for instance, quite a long journey to Lawrenceville or to Manchester, separate villages now lost within the populous districts of the city. So carrying our minds sympathetically back to those more simple days, we can read with genuine appreciation this announcement in a newspaper of August, 1847:

Messrs. M. & J. Bridenthal have obtained one of the largest class of eight horse omnibusses, which is to be placed upon the route from Penn and Liberty streets to the borough of Lawrenceville. It

passed through our streets on Tuesday evening, well filled with ladies, and a band of music on the top.

But most prolific of great and quick progress was the beginning, and finally the total, displacement of canal transportation by the new steam railway lines. Already almost a quarter of a century had passed since the historic little railroad was opened between Lancaster and Philadelphia, in the realization of which that celebrated Mason and philanthropist, Stephen Girard, had taken so great a part. To the worthy folk of Eastern Pennsylvania it had been in those days a fearsome thing to see the small locomotive dragging along its queerly built cars at the awful speed of twelve miles an hour, without a stop, except to halt now and then to load up more fire wood for the puffiing engine. But by the time the railroads got into Allegheny county the novelty had a good deal worn off and much faster speed was common. In June, 1846, a contract was let for the construction of the first twenty miles of railroad west of Harrisburg, and in the same year a section of fifteen miles was completed east of Pittsburgh. By the year 1850 the road had reached Hollidaysburg, where a junction was made with the "portage" over the Alleghanies, and thence by canal to Pittsburgh. Always the great range of the Alleghany mountains had been a mighty barrier to travel and traffic between the East and the West of Pennsylvania; and it was not until February, 1854, that a railroad extended continuously from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia.

Then, by the year 1847 another tremendous advance in human progress had been made. Electricity was carrying with immeasurable speed messages over the wires in all directions. In 1847 an annual message of a President of the United States had been for the first time transmitted entire by telegraph from Washington to Pittsburgh. Surely that was an achievement to create astonishment. A Pittsburgh newspaper of December 22, 1847, makes the following announcement, embellished and emphasized by numerous exclamation points:

Pittsburgh and St. Louis are now connected by the Telegraph Wire! The longest line in the world through our City, viz: From Washington City to St. Louis, a distance of about 1,000 miles! Think

of such a ponderous document as the President's Message travelling such a distance in almost no time!

This year of 1847, in which the successful start was made for organization of the Masonic Fund Society and the erection of the first large Masonic building in Pittsburgh, is also notable as being the period of the permanent introduction into Pennsylvania of Templar Masonry by the General Grand Encampment of the United States. The present Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States was formed in 1816, with power to establish Commanderies in any State in which there was no Grand Encampment. The suspension of the early Grand Encampment in Pennsylvania in 1824 had opened up that State to the General Grand Body, and on May 13, 1847, a dispensation was granted for Pittsburgh Commandery, No. 1. In this notable achievement, of large Masonic interest, five of the early trustees of the Masonic Fund Society were directly concerned. They were, Brothers McCammon, McKinley, Hoon, Wilson and Reinhart. It will not, in view of that fact, be amiss, we think, to insert here the official record of this historical event. The M. E. Sir William B. Hubbard, Captain-General of the General Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, in his report to the General Grand Body at a meeting in Columbus, Ohio, in September, 1847, has the following:

"On the 13th of May last I received an application from Sir Knights Alexander McCammon, William W. Wilson, James S. Hoon, Samuel McKinley, Charles W. Ricketson, John Y. C. Bell, John McTierman, George R. White, Rev. George S. Holmes and Francis Bailey at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, praying for authority to establish in the city of Pittsburgh, an Encampment subordinate to the General Grand Encampment of the United States, which application was accompanied by a copy from the records of Wheeling Encampment at Wheeling, and vouching for the moral and Masonic qualifications of the several applicants; and having full confidence in the opinion and judgment of our Illustrious Knights composing the Encampment at Wheeling, and also confiding in the thus avouched high character of the Sir Knights of Pittsburgh, immediately on the receipt of the usual fee required by our Constitution, I made out and issued to them my Warrant of Dispensation authorizing the establishment at Pittsburgh of a Council of Red Cross Knights and an Encampment, as prayed for in their petition. From the information

I have received, I entertain the belief that this Encampment will be found well worthy of the high honors confided to it.

Among the first officers chosen for this Encampment, as it was then designated, were Brothers McCammon, E. C.; Wilson, G.; Hoon, C. G.; McKinley, P.; and Reinhart, R.; all of whom later were Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society.

Describing the encouraging condition of Free Masonry in Pittsburgh in 1847, Brother Alexander McCammon said in a communication printed in Moore's Freemason's Magazine for July of that year:

"On the 21st. ult. M. E. Wm. P. Wilson, proxy of Wm. B. Hubbard, Gen. Gr. Com. of the G. G. E. of the United States, organized Pittsburgh Encampment, No. 1, and installed the officers. We have now five Masonic Bodies in this city, all in a flattering state of prosperity. This speaks well for the zeal of the brethren. Three years ago we had but one lodge, composed of thirteen members, all told.

Thus it came about that amidst those days of great advances in the progress of the Keystone State, the Masonic Order in Pittsburgh signalized its importance and displayed its own material growth by the creation of a notable and highly useful organization, under the care and guidance of which was begun and completed the construction of the most imposing Masonic edifice outside of the city of Philadelphia at that period.

As has been shown by the first record in the original Minute Book of the Masonic Fund Society's Trustees, a committee of seven was appointed at the Convocation held in Masonic Hall December 25, 1847 and directed to report at the next meeting, January 1, 1848, on "the propriety of purchasing a lot of ground and the erection thereon of a Masonic Hall." To make such a report would not be a difficult matter for that committee. It had been selected from the very group of prominent Masons who had for months past been working out the plans. Therefore, when the second Convocation was called to order on the first day of January, 1848, they had ready a full and specifically detailed paper to present. At this meeting, which was also held in the Hall at Wood and Third streets, Brother William Porter again presided and Brother William W. Wilson again acted as secretary. Brother George W. Layng, who

was Chairman of the Committee of Seven, presented the report to the brethren. It was carefully considered and to some extent modified. This important paper has happily been preserved in full on the minutes of the Convocation and is as follows:

Pittsburgh, January 1, 1848.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Convocation met in the lodge room, Bro. William Porter in the chair; Bro. W. W. Wilson secry.

The committee through Bro. Geo. W. Layng, made a report which, after having been considered and amended, was adopted as follows:

The undersigned committee to whom was referred the consideration of a mode for raising a fund for the purchase of a Lot and the erection thereon of a Masonic Hall in the City of Pittsburgh, respectfully report:—

That they have given to the subject that consideration which its importance demands, and submit the following as the result of their deliberations:

First. That seven persons shall be elected Trustees for the purpose of procuring subscriptions from such of the Masonic fraternity as may choose to contribute, in order to raise a fund for the purchase of a lot of ground and the erection thereon of a suitable hall for the meetings of the brethren.

Second. That for the well ordering and conducting said election, the Masonic lodges now in existence in this City shall each nominate two persons, one of whom shall be elected to represent that body on the Board of Trustees.

Third: The election of the trustees shall be by ballot and shall be held in the lodge room, in the city of Pittsburgh, on the first day of January, 1948, and on the 27th day of December in every year thereafter, (unless the Same shall fall upon the Sabbath, when it shall be on the 28th); each stockholder shall be entitled to one vote, the judges of said election to be chosen by a majority of the stockholders that may be present in said convocation. The trustees so elected shall assemble at such time as may suit their convenience; not later than ten days succeeding their election, and choose one of their number President, and another Secretary. They shall continue in office one year, (except those who may be elected for the present year, who shall serve only until the 27th December next), and until others are chosen and organized; and in case of the death, resignation or refusal to act, of the President or any trustee, the members of the different lodges in convention assembled may elect others to supply such vacancies, in such manner as is provided in the Second and this third Article.

Fourth. Every brother subscribing in his own name or in the name of any other person shall have such name inscribed in a book, to be prepared for that purpose, with the amount of such subscrip-

tion and the date on which payment thereof may have been made. Said stock shall be paid in three annual payments, viz: on the first day of May in each and every year.

Fifth. The price of each share of stock shall be five dollars. When two thousand shares shall be subscribed, the books shall be closed. Provided that the said trustees may receive subscriptions at any time until the whole amount shall be subscribed. Provided also, that the different lodges, chapters, encampments, councils, &c, shall contribute their annual surplus as a gratuity for the benefit of the Hall.

Sixth. After the erection and completion of the Hall, the Trustees for the time-being shall procure certificates for the shares of stock in said Hall and shall deliver one certificate signed by the President and countersigned by the Secretary, to each person for each share of stock by him so subscribed and paid, bearing an interest not more than six per cent per annum. The stock shall be transferrable, but before it pass by such transfer, it shall be offered to the board of trustees, who shall be entitled to a refusal thereof.

Seventh. The Stockholders shall assemble in the lodge room on the first Monday in January, 1849, and on the same day in every year thereafter, when a Statement of the business and accounts of the trustees shall be exhibited, at which meeting the stockholders present, or a majority of them, shall make such rules and regulations relative to the holding of stock, and such other matters as may be brought before them, as they may deem advisable.

It was a well formulated plan upon which to begin and continue operations. It first provided that seven persons should comprise the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society, and through the more than seventy years of the Society's existence that number has never been changed. Then came the manner of the election of the trustees by the stockholders, or share holders, as they are today designated. The time of their service and the manner of filling vacancies were then provided for, and particular and detailed provisions were made for securing the necessary funds and for the time of meetings. Out of this plan as reported came later the provisions of the Charter and the carefully-worded By-Laws. It is to be noted, however, that in the report presented by Brother Layng two essentials to the complete creation of the proposed organization are not mentioned. The plan presented provided for the election of a President and Secretary, but nothing is said as to the creation of the office of Treasurer. This omission was, however, doubtless made designedly, as the secretary could be empowered,

prior to securing a charter, to receive and care for whatever subscriptions might come in; and nowhere in the Report are there words even suggestive of a name for the proposed organization. In fact, we do not come across the name or title of the organization, "The Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny," until in the minutes of a meeting of the trustees held December 27, 1849, two months after the Charter had been granted by the local courts, for it was not until almost two years later that their Charter was secured.

The next meeting (the second) of the Trustees following that of January 1, 1848, was held one week later. From the wording of the minutes it may be believed that this was the first exclusive session of the seven Trustees, who had been selected at the Convocation of December 25, 1847. They met in the law office of Bro. George W. Layng, which was then located, according to his professional card in the newspapers, "at the corner of Fourth & Wood sts., over Sibbet & Jones' Exchange." At this time Brother Layng, while also busy with the practice of law, was a member of the Select Council of the city of Pittsburgh. Subsequent sessions of the Trustees were also held in his office, and it is altogether likely that it was there that he and Judge Charles Shaler and other of the brethren later drew up and completed the Constitution, the Charter and the By-Laws. The date of this first actual meeting of the Trustees was January 8, 1848; but whether there had been in the meantime another gathering of the stockholders is not known. These minutes are particularly important, as they designate the first officers elected by the Board of Trustees. The entry in the Minute Book is as follows:

Pittsburgh, January 8, 1848.

In accordance with the Constitution and call of the members composing the board of trustees, the board met at the office of Bro. Geo. W. Layng, when the following brethren were elected to fill the offices in the Board to serve until the next annual election.

President	Bro. Geo. W. Layng
Secretary	Bro. S. McKinley
Treasurer	Bro. James S. Hoon.

On motion it was resolved that a committee of three persons be appointed to prepare by-laws for the government of the board, when

Bros. Layng, Wilson and McKinley were appointed on said committee. Adjourned.

The three officers named were leading Masons, good business men, popular in the community and altogether competent to serve effectively in their several positions. Brother Samuel McKinley, a Past Master of Lodge 45, was at this date District Deputy Grand Master of the Fifth district, comprising the counties of Allegheny, Beaver and Westmoreland. He was a charter member of Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162 and resided in Allegheny City, which was then a separate municipality. His business announcements in the local newspapers of that period show that he was a "House, sign and ornamental painter & dealer in paints, No. 44 St. Clair st., Pittsburgh." Brother Layng as has been already stated, was an attorney and member of the City Councils. Brother Hoon, also a Past Master of Lodge 45, was one of the charter members of Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162 ,and was engaged in the banking business with Brother Thomas Sargent, under the firm name of Hoon & Sargent, with their place of business at the corner of Wood and Diamond streets, the site of the present Citizens Savings Bank.

There now comes, after this meeting of January 8, 1848, a long interval of unrecorded action on the part of the Trustees and their officers. The Minute Book of the Masonic Fund Society furnishes no reports of meetings nor gives other information through a consecutive period of thirteen months. It was not until February 1, 1849, that a meeting is again recorded. What had been accomplished by the trustees in the meantime? The answer must be found a good deal within the realm of conjecture. First, we may be sure that the trustees were not neglecting the great work in hand. There were many important matters to be considered, which would not require attention at any formal meetings, until official action and confirmation were needed. By-laws had to be drafted, the Charter written out and papers arranged for application to the courts, a satisfactory site for the hall selected, negotiations for the purchase of the land started, and methods for the securing of sufficient funds adopted. The trustees thus knew what they had to do, and they had been vested with enough

authority to go ahead and do it. Happily we are not wholly in the dark as to the work throughout the year 1848. In the Pittsburgh newspapers of date of April 25, 1848, is found this notice:

Masonic Notice:—The brethren will meet in the Lodge room in general convention this (Tuesday) evening, at 7 o'clock. A punctual attendance is requested.

Geo. W. Layng,
Pres. Board of Trustees.

Then on May 4, 1848, appeared this notice in the local papers:

The Masonic Fraternity of Pittsburgh and Allegheny are requested to meet in convocation at their Hall this evening at 8 o'clock P. M.

By Order,
S. McKinley, D. D. G. M., Masonic District.

While there are no records to be found of these convocations, it may be safely surmised that these gatherings were called for the purpose of hearing the reports of the Committee, of which Brother Layng was chairman, and to discuss the important matters placed before the brethren so assembled. At these two meetings and perhaps at others held later in 1848 the committee, which was in reality the first Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society, was doubtless authorized to continue their activities and their successive plans adopted by the convocations. We may safely assume that much of their effort was directed during 1848 towards securing subscriptions, and according to the disclosures at subsequent meetings they did not fail in that important part of their undertaking. They obtained subscriptions, many of which were in fact donations, in various ways. The Masonic bodies in Pittsburgh subscribed in the aggregate a goodly sum. It is evident that many individual local Masons took an active part in getting these funds. In their various journeys, for instance, to Brownsville, to Wheeling, to Cincinnati, to Philadelphia and other places they solicited and obtained subscriptions and donations.

As to the choice of a site for the proposed Masonic Hall, there does not seem to have been any difficulty. There were many good locations available. They selected a site

on Fifth avenue, then known as Fifth street. Their choice was a most fortunate one. From the beginning of the development of the city until the great fire of 1845, Market, Third and Fourth streets and the thoroughfares along the Monongahela river front, had comprised the chief centers for the ever advancing commercial and manufacturing interests. But when after 1845 the devastated area of the city was being rebuilt, the lower portion of the famous wedge of land which had always formed a great industrial and business center of Pittsburgh, began even at that date to be crowded. So by the year 1847 trade was overflowing into Fifth street and it was moving steadily up towards the historic Grant Hill. There came a demand for more business places on Fifth street, the chief theater was located there, and it was noised about that the government was going to secure a site and erect an imposing post office building on that thoroughfare, which not long after it actually did, almost side by side with the new Masonic Hall. So that our practical brethren who had charge of this Masonic enterprise, saw that not only would a site on Fifth street be convenient, but would also turn out to be a satisfactory investment in the future. Besides as it was intended that a part of the Hall should bring in a revenue in the way of rentals from store rooms and an auditorium, a location on Fifth street would be particularly desirable.

While the trustees, with the support and approbation of the local brethren generally, were thus engaged in getting subscriptions and obtaining a site for the building, they also turned their attention to securing a Charter. This work was largely left to Brother Layng, as the only attorney on the Board of Trustees, and according to tradition he was materially aided by Judge Charles Shaler. The application for this charter was made in the local courts in the summer of 1849, and it was granted October 26, of that year. There are seventeen signatures to this charter, which was placed on record in the office of the Recorder of Deeds for the County of Allegheny February 18, 1850. The signatures of the incorporators as set down in the charter, as recorded, are in the following order:

A. G. Reinhart	James Stevens	W. W. Wilson
Wm. Jenkins	T. S. Halfpenny	Jas. S. Hoon
Thos. Sargent	Geo. R. White	Geo. W. Layng
S. McKinley	Jas. W. Hailman	Horatio N. Speer
John Porter	A. McCammon	H. J. Rogers
T. Quormael	W. S. Davitt	

The wording of the original Charter, without the subsequent amendment, relative to the manner of electing Trustees, made in 1893, is as follows:

Articles to govern the Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny.

Art. 1. The Society shall be known by the name and stile of the Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny.

Art. 2. The object of the Society shall be the distribution of Charity, the relief of such of the Masonic fraternity, their widows and orphan children as may require its aid.

Art. 3. It shall consist of such persons, citizens of this Commonwealth, as may be admitted members and comply with the rules hereinafter penciled.

Art. 4. The officers of the Society shall be seven Trustees who shall choose from among themselves a President, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall receive no compensation for their services to the Society by virtue of their office.

Art. 5. The election of Trustees shall be by ballot and shall be held in a suitable place in the City of Pittsburgh the 27th day of December in each and every year, (unless the same shall fall upon the Sabbath, in which case it shall be on the 28th). Each member shall be entitled to one vote and no vote by proxy shall be received. The Judges of said election shall be chosen by a majority of the members that may be present at said election. None but Masons shall be entitled to a vote. The trustees shall continue in office one year and until others are chosen and organized; and in case of the death, resignation or refusal to act, of any trustee, the members may elect others to supply such vacancies, in such manner as is prescribed in this Article.

The trustees for the partial year shall be James W. Hailman, Samuel McKinley, Alexander McCammon, W. W. Wilson, John Sargent, James Hoon & George W. Layng.

Art. 6. The said Trustees or a majority of them, or such one or more of them, to whom the power may be delegated by the Board, shall have the entire control, management and disposal of the funds and property belonging to the society during their continuance in office, and upon application to them for relief and assistance for those who come within the true intent, meaning and object of the society, the said Board, or such of them as are above designated, shall or may disburse to the applicant or applicants such portion of

the Society's funds as may be just and proper, in conformity with the wants and necessities of the party to be relieved.

Art. 7. The funds of the society shall be constituted by periodical contributions of the members, according to the rules and regulations to be laid down in the by-laws. The trustees shall have power to purchase, take and hold to them and their successors and assigns, and of selling and transferring in fee simple, or for any less estate, such lands, tenements and hereditaments as shall be sold, devised, conveyed or granted to them by deed, bequest or otherwise; and should the Society deem it necessary and proper to erect a suitable building in the City of Pittsburgh as a place for meeting or for the purpose of revenue, the trustees shall or may proceed to construct the same and to provide the means of paying therefor by voluntary subscriptions, or by subscription of stock, or in any other way they may think proper, provided their acts in such proceeding shall not be inconsistent with the Constitution and by-laws of the Society, or inconsistent with the corporate privileges meant or intended to be granted by law. Provided also, that the clear yearly income of such real estate shall not exceed two thousand dollars. They shall procure a common seal, with such device and inscription as they may think proper, and their official acts shall be authenticated by affixing the same.

Art. 8. The trustees, or a majority of them, shall have power to adopt such by-laws, rules and regulations as may be deemed expedient for the well governing the affairs of the Society, and shall have power to call special meetings of the members whenever they may think necessary; provided that such by-laws, rules and regulations shall not be inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of this Commonwealth.

Art. 9. The members shall assemble in a suitable place on the first Monday in December in each and every year, when the accounts and transactions of the trustees shall be exhibited for their inspection and examination.

The names of the incorporators then follow, and then comes the decree of the court, in the following terms:

In the matter of the application of the Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny for a Charter of Incorporation.

And now to-wit: October 26, 1849, on proof of publication of notice, according to the preceding order, and no sufficient objection being shown to the contrary thereof, the Court hereby decree that the persons associated in accordance with the articles and constitution of the Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny, become and be a Corporation or Body Politic, and that the said Articles of Association be recorded in the office for recording deeds, &c., in Allegheny County.

By the Court. (Seal.)

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed

the seal of the said Court of Common Pleas at Pittsburgh this 31st day of January, A. D., 1850.

Geo. S. Hays,
Prothonotary of said Court.

Recorded Feb. 18, 1850.

This old Charter, with but one modification, still remains the source of the legal existence and authority of the Masonic Fund Society. This one change was brought about in the year 1893 by an amendment, on application to the courts, by which the voting status of the stockholders was modified. In Article 5, as found above, it is provided that "Each member shall be entitled to one vote, and no vote by proxy shall be received." This phraseology was changed and amended to read as follows:

Each member shall be entitled to one vote for each share of stock held by him, as shown by the books of the Society; but no share transferred within ten days of the election shall entitle the holder thereof to vote at such meeting, nor shall any vote by proxy be received. Shares of stock held by a Lodge or other Body shall be voted by a Trustee elected for that purpose, or in case of failure to elect such Trustee, by the presiding officer thereof."

This old charter is comprehensive, yet concise. It fixes the exact title or name of the organization as "The Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny." The number of trustees is restricted to seven, the officers are to be a President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. It designates as the first seven Trustees the brethren who were named as the first committee appointed at the Convocation held December 25, 1847. The Board of Trustees shall have the entire control, management and disposal of the funds and property at any time belonging to the Society; they may purchase or receive by bequest and hold or sell any real property, and they may "erect a suitable building" as a place for meeting or for the purpose of revenue," and are empowered to provide the necessary funds in any way "they may think proper;" provided, of course, they keep within the range of the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth.

It may now easily be believed that although the Board of Trustees held no formal meetings for more than a year after their organization—at least none of which any records have come down to us—they had accomplished a great and

important amount of labor. The subscriptions came in rather slowly at first, then later they were more plentiful. Much of the money thus secured came as actual donations, "voluntary subscriptions," in the real sense, which the generous donors did not expect to get back, nor upon which they desired any return as an investment. Brothers McKinley and McCammon, two of the trustees, had made during the year 1848 trips to Philadelphia, where individual Masons and various of the Masonic Bodies made rather extensive subscriptions; and according to subsequent developments, these two brethren and other Pittsburgh Masons took every opportunity to get the Grand Lodge financially interested in the proposition to erect a Hall, and they succeeded to an admirable extent.

Meantime, the Board of Trustees had definitely chosen the site for the Hall. There were good reasons, as have been shown, for selecting the Fifth street location, and they proceeded to buy the necessary lot on that thoroughfare. The ground they decided to buy belonged then to Brother George R. Riddle, a real estate dealer at that time, with offices in "Avery Row," a row of brick buildings then standing on Fifth avenue, above Smithfield street. The dealings of the Trustees with Mr. Riddle are recited in the minutes of the first meeting held after the long silence of thirteen months. This session was of the date of January 1, 1849, and it was at this meeting that Brother Samuel McKinley began his work as the first elected secretary, an office which he filled until January, 1853. The trustees at this session of February 1 again met in the office of Brother George W. Layng and there were present Brothers Hailman, Layng, Wilson, McCammon and McKinley. The business of the purchase of the lot on Fifth avenue is the only matter mentioned in the minutes, which say:

> On motion made and seconded, it was resolved that we purchase the Lot in Fifth street owned by George R. Riddle, on the terms proposed by him, to-wit: Six thousand dollars, one thousand dollars to be paid at the delivery of the deed.
>
> On motion resolved, that the President be instructed to inform Mr. Riddle of the same, and also to examine into the title, etc.

It became at the start a peculiarity in the course of Brother McKinley's efficient discharge of his duties as sec-

retary of the Board that having once referred in his minutes to a matter, up for discussion and disposal, he rarely, even though it was of much importance, referred to it in subsequent minutes, although it must have more than once come up again for consideration. This is the case with the matter of the purchase of the lot. He never gives us any more information about that transaction in his subsequent records. What he does say, however, in the above-quoted minutes provides ample authority for the assertion that it was not with out deliberate design that the Board had held no meetings for a period of over a year. They did not desire to hinder or retard the good progress of their important preliminary work by discussions and "resolves" in formal meetings of the Board, nor did they wish to see their plans scattered and perhaps shattered by the interference at meetings of protesting brethren who might entertain divergent views as to the purchase of the property or the erection of the Hall. They were wise men. Seven competent Masons, invested with due authority, could more effectively carry out definite plans, than if there was a small army of brethren trying to put through the business.

The plot of ground bought on Fifth street is the same upon which have stood two Masonic Halls since the year 1851. The first was destroyed by a fire in 1887. The second, a splendid edifice, was dedicated June 24, 1889, and in the year 1914 was sold by the Masonic Fund Society, and is now entirely used for mercantile purposes, the fraternity having erected the magnificent Temple in the Oakland district, on Fifth Avenue. The transfer of the Fifth street property in 1849 was made by deed from George R. Riddle, grantor, to the Board of Trustees in their individual capacity, as set forth in the conveyance, as follows:

> Between George R. Riddle and Mary his wife, of the city of Pittsburgh, and James W. Hailman, Samuel McKinley, Alexander McCammon, W. W. Wilson, John Sargent, James Hoon and George W. Layng, Trustees of the Masonic Hall in the City of Pittsburgh.

The deed is dated February 17, 1849, and the ground thus transferred had a frontage of 20 feet on Fifth street, extending back towards, but not reaching, Virgin alley, now known as Oliver avenue, a distance of 120 feet. The con-

sideration named in the conveyance was $3,000. In addition to this amount there was on the property a mortgage, which the purchasers assumed, of $2,000, thus making the price of the lot and the buildings thereon, which were ancient and delapidated, $5,000. As by the deed from Mr. Riddle the title was held by the Trustees only as individuals, and not in their corporate capacity, a conveyance of the property was made by them to the Masonic Fund Society, as a corporation, on January 10, 1850, after the charter had been secured. Long prior to the purchase of the property by the Trustees certain ground rents had been created in this land, and we find by the deed of the individual trustees to the Society as a corporation that these charges had reached an aggregate annual rental of $180.

The plot of ground thus purchased was not, however, of sufficient frontage on Fifth street. There was an adjoining plot belonging to William Blakely, and the Society proceeded to get title to this land by deed dated April 1, 1850, for the price of $5,000. It will thus be seen that the total cost of the real estate bought and owned by the Masonic Fund Society at this period was $10,000, with an additional charge of old ground rents, which years after were extinguished by purchase.

We have now come to the period when we can follow, in orderly sequence, the minutes of the successive meetings of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society. The next meeting after that of February 1, 1849, was held on the 17th of the same month, again in Brother Layng's law office, and the chief matter mentioned in the minutes was the adoption of a motion that the stockholders be required to "pay five per cent on stock every sixty days from and after the first of March, 1849;" which, of course, meant that as funds were then needed by the Board of Trustees, those who held stock at this date were to pay, at an early period, five per cent. of their subscriptions every two months until the total of their subscriptions had been paid in.

On December 27, 1849, a meeting of the stockholders was held, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter, in the Hall at Wood and Third streets, and the second election for trustees was held. Quite a change resulted in the

personnel of the Board. Brothers McCammon, Wilson and Sargent dropped out. The following were chosen in their places: Brother William J. Davitt, a member of Lodge 45, and who had a merchant tailoring establishment at No. 219 Liberty avenue, then designated as a "street;" Brother Charles F. Wolf, who was a hardware merchant and belonged to St. John's Lodge, No. 219; and Brother William Noble, a member of Lodge 45, and whose business was that of upholsterer. But apparently the election of these three brethren was carried through without their consent, as at the very next meeting of the Trustees they all sent in written refusals to serve. The minutes state that they gave "reasons therefor," but the reasons are not set down in the record. We therefore do not know on what grounds they justified their rejections of their election as trustees. It is quite likely that their business affairs did not permit sufficient time to devote to the duties of trustees, which duties were certainly varied, important and exacting. The Board accepted the resignations of Brothers Wolf and Noble, but not that of Brother Davitt, and set a date for an election by the stockholders to again fill the two vacancies. They also at this meeting organized the Board for the coming year, as provided for in the charter. Brother Hailman was chosen President, Hoon Treasurer and McKinley Secretary. Brothers Hailman, Hoon and Layng were named as a committee to draw up by-laws, and we find this interesting record in the minutes of this session:

> On motion resolved that we put in a contract and proceed to erect the Hall at the earliest practicable period in the coming spring.

The vacancies in the Board were filled at the next stockholders meeting, held Monday evening, January 7, 1850, when Brother John Sargent, a member of Allegheny Lodge No. 223, and Brother John C. Cole, of Lodge 45, were chosen.

It is a matter to be deplored that only the most meagre records of these early sessions of the stockholders have come down to us. The few we have found are those made briefly by Brother McKinley in the Minute Book of the Masonic Fund Society. There must have been prolonged and earnest discussions and arrangements, particularly during

the period between the organization of the Society and the completion of the Hall in 1851. The presiding officers and the secretaries of these sessions of the stockholders were usually chosen outside the membership of the Board of Trustees and separate minutes were kept, but none of the early ones seem to have been preserved.

It having been decided in December to ask for bids for the construction of the proposed building, there would naturally soon be an immediate need of funds; and so at a session of the Board held February 2, 1850, it was resolved "to call in" an "installment" of ten percent. of the subscriptions thus far obtained, to be paid "on or before the first of March next, and that all installments due up to that period be requested to be paid to the Treasurer at the office of Hoon & Sargent." This was to be publicly made known by notices in the newspapers. Accordingly we find the following advertisement in local newspapers of date of February 23, 1850:

Masonic Fund Society.

The Stockholders in the Masonic Fund Society are hereby notified that an installment of ten percent. upon the whole subscription will be requested on or before the first day of March next, and that all installments due at that time, and not heretofore paid, will be required at the same time. Payments to be made to the Treasurer at the office of Hoon & Sargent, Pittsburgh.

By Order of the Board of Trustees,
Geo. W. Layng, Pres't Pro Tem.

Then at a meeting of the Board, April 13, this resolution, which gives an indication of the wide distribution of the subscriptions, was adopted:

Resolved, That a person be employed to solicit subscriptions for stock and collect monies due already subscribed, which solicitor shall be authorized to visit Cincinnati, Brownsville and other places, as may be deemed advisable.

At this same meeting the resignation of Brother Cole, who had been elected Trustee in the previous January, was received and accepted. To fill this vacancy another meeting of the stockholders was convened on May 16, 1850, and when it was called to order another resignation of a Trustee was announced. This time it was Brother John Sargent. As to this resignation the minutes furnish the infor-

mation that, "it being intimated from previous conversation with Bro. Jno. Sargent that in consequence of his having moved from the city, it would be pleasing to him to be excused from serving as Trustee, his resignation was accepted and an election to fill the vacancy was ordered." This election resulted in the choice of Brothers James Shidle and William Noble. This was for Brother Noble a reelection, but for some reasons not known now he again resigned three weeks later. The election as a Trustee of Brother James Shidle is of particular interest. For there in the year 1850 began by that election a long and faithful succession of membership in the Board of Trustees, which extending down to the present day, has included three representatives of that family: First, Brother James Shidle; then his son, that illustrious Mason, Geter Crosby Shidle, and then his grandson, Fager Jackson Shidle, who for a number of years has been an efficient member of the Board of Trustees.

As will be shown in the following chapter of this book, the contract for the construction of the Hall had by this time been awarded, an architect chosen, and much progress made towards the actual erection of the building. The fourth day of July had been designated as the date for the laying of the corner stone, Brothers Hailman, Hoon and McKinley had been named as the Committee on Arrangements, and Brother John Birmingham, long a devoted and prominent member of the Craft, selected as chief marshal of the procession.

Two years had now elapsed since that preliminary meeting on December 25, 1847, when the first definite action was taken toward the final realization of the ambition of the brethren to possess a Masonic Hall of proportions ample for the needs of the growing fraternity. We have desired to trace in this chapter the successive concerted movements which, beginning with the erection of the little building in the year 1811, reached their ultimate fruition on that memorable day of October 9, 1851, when with imposing and solemn ceremonies their elegant Masonic Hall on Fifth avenue was dedicated. It has been a recital of ups and downs, but never of signal failures. There had been the barriers

of a widespread and malignant antimasonic opposition to overcome, and there were the handicaps of a small membership, a scarcity of funds and the great disasters of the fire of 1845. But all these had geen surmounted and swept away. And never through that long period of forty years had there arisen divisions nor contests among the Pittsburgh Masons. When in the times of persecution their numbers were woefully small, those who fearlessly kept the faith, moved proudly to the front. If sometimes there was discouragement, there was never a retreat. Always as Masons they looked forward and upward. Through the murk of the clouds the golden sun ever glimmered. And then when the good days came and it shone forth in all its brilliant radiance———

> What a heart-delight they felt at last—
> So many toils, so many dangers past.

CHAPTER II.

ERECTION AND DEDICATION OF 1851 HALL.

Year of Triumph for the Trustees and Brethren—Architect James W. Kerr's Plans for Building Accepted—Trustees Accept Builder's Bid of $13,945—Contracts for Material Awarded—Date for Laying Corner Stone Named—Interesting and Impressive Ceremonies—Newspaper Comments—Sad Death of Trustee Layng—Work on Hall Pushed Forward Rapidly—Successful Financial Plans—Saloons and Restaurants Formally Barred from New Hall—Putting in the Furnishings—Original Description of Building—First Meeting of Board of Trustees in Hall—No Trouble to Get Tenants for Store Rooms—First Local Convocation Held—Notable Dedication Ceremonies—Order of Procession—Newspaper Commendations.

BROTHER James King, a prominent physician of Pittsburgh, a member of St. John's Lodge, No. 219, and who in later times was a surgeon-general in the Civil War, was the orator at the dedication, September 26, 1855, of the new Masonic Hall erected on Chestnut street, in Philadelphia. In his fine address on that occasion, he said:

"However praiseworthy your edifice may be as an exhibition of taste, yet we attach value to it chiefly because of the confidence it inspires that you will make it the means to a great end—the rearing in the midst of this people of a moral superstructure, which is to rest on the Brotherhood, as so many pillars of support.

The Masonic brethren of our days can look back through a clear vista of over seventy years and confidently cherish the elevating conviction that the impelling motives which brought to completion the Pittsburgh Masonic Hall of 1851, comparatively unpretentious as it was, were motives based upon the finest and truest fraternal aspirations and impulses. Men of the stamp of Hailman, of Shaler, of Shidle, of Layng, and of others of that band of progressive Masons of nearly three-quarters of a century ago, would see beyond the material benefits that could accrue from the erection of a Masonic building in the city of Pittsburgh. They had a vision of Masonry that penetrated into far-off years. Freed from the claws of persecution, and gathering strength and influence with each day, the Craft throughout

the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania stood triumphant, and the brethren of the year 1850 could see their beloved fraternity strong and influential beyond any former time. So, having arranged, beginning actually in the last days of the year 1847, to build a fitting habitation for Masonry, they set about the great labor of putting into reality that for which they had dreamed through many years past. We have in the preceding chapter brought the recital of their preliminary labors down through the proceedings incident to the purchase of a site for their building, the issuance of stock, and the adjustment of other important matters, to the date when the architect was seleced.

The first mention of the architect chosen is in the minutes of a meeting of the Board of Trustees held April 13, 1850, as follows:

April 13, 1850. Trustees met. Members prest., Hailman, Hoon, Layng, Davitt, McKinley.

On motion resolved, that the Trustees accept the Plan with side entrances as proposed by J. W. Kerr.

Resolved, that J. W. Kerr be requested to prepare at the earliest convenience Specifications according to the Plan exhibited and approved.

Resolved, that proposals for the removal of the old building be solicited. Also that Proposals for the construction of the Hall be solicited as soon as the Specifications can be prepared, and that such proposals be solicited by public advertisement.

It is evident from the above minutes that the architect had been chosen some time before the date of April, 1850. This architect was Brother Joseph W. Kerr, at that period and for years later, a leading representative of his profession in Allegheny county. He was a native of Pittsburgh, and a Mason, belonging to St. John's Lodge, No. 219. His parents had come from Scotland, and after studying architecture and kindred subjects in Pittsburgh, he was sent, by his father, to Edinburg, Scotland, where he took a further course in studies pertaining to his profession. Returning, he located in Pittsburgh and in a few years had established a prosperous business. Many principal public buildings, halls, and elegant residences were erected from his plans and under his supervision. Among the structures for which he was the architect was the old United States Post Office

and Customs building, which stood at the corner of Fifth avenue and Smithfield street, quite near to the Masonic Hall, that was to be constructed from his plans. Other structures of his creation were the old University buildings at Ross and Diamond streets; the former Second Presbyterian church at Seventh street and Penn avenue, now the site of the Pitt Theater; the Hospital for the Insane at Dixmont; the fine residence so long the home of Brother James W. Hailman, known now as a family hotel, on Shady avenue, in the East End District, and the Carr residence, still standing in the Point Breeze district.

Doubtless the "plans and specifications" called for in the above quoted minutes were publicly displayed for the examination and approbation of the brethren generally; and although there is no record of any sharp divergence of views on the subject, we may be certain that there was close scrutiny made and plenty of discussion indulged in before the ultimate design was agreed upon. It is evident, too, that two sets of plans were exhibited, as the records of a meeting of the Trustees on May 7 make mention of a second plan. This entry reads:

Resolved, that Plan No. 2, as exhibited by J. W. Kerr, be adopted for the Masonic Hall.

The same minutes make note of the provision that "public proposals be issued for the erection of the Hall, to close Thursday, 24 May." At the same session a Building Committee was appointed, comprising Brothers McKinley, Layng and Hoon, who were to serve "for the present month." Thereafter the Building Committee was newly named at the beginning of each month. In the matter of proposals for bids further action was taken at a meeting held May 16, 1850, the record of which is as follows:

On motion made and seconded, the Resolution inviting separate Proposals for building, was rescinded, and Resolved, That Proposals be issued to erect the building by Lump Contract; except the ornamental work of the Hall on 3rd Story and Painting & Glazing & Glass.

Resolved, that the material furnished and work done by Contractor be estimated every 60 days and paid, Reserving 20 pr ct. on each estimate.

Resolved, That the Hall be completed and delivered on 1st July, 1851.

Resolved, That the closing of Proposals for Hall be extended to the 27th May.

Pursuant to the resolutions adopted, bids were advertised for in the Pittsburgh newspapers, the first advertisement appearing May 18, 1850, in this form:

SEALED PROPOSALS

For building Masonic Hall will be received at the Office of S. McKinley, No. 11 St. Clair street, Until Wednesday, 27th inst., at 4 o'clock P. M.

Plans and Specifications to be seen at the Architect's office, James Kerr, Jr., Fourth Street.

By Order of Board of Trustees.

S. McKinley, Sec'y.

Five builders submitted bids, as is shown by the minutes, quoted below, of a meeting on May 29, 1850. It will be noted that this session of the Trustees was held in "Committee Room, Masonic Hall." This refers to a room in the building at the corner of Wood and Third streets, which had been rented from Mr. Darsie by the Masonic brethren after the fire of 1845. In this Hall the Lodges, the Chapter and the Council, then in existence, met until the new hall on Fifth avenue was opened. The minutes of the above mentioned meeting of May 29, 1850, are as follows:

Committee Room, Masonic Hall, Pittsburgh, May 29th, 1850. Trustees assembled to receive the bids for Masonic Hall. Present, J. W. Hailman, Hoon, Davitt, Shidle, Noble & McKinley.

Minutes of last Meeting read, amended and approved.

On motion, ordered that the bids be opened, when it appeared that the following Gentlemen had proposed to the following amts., according to plans & specifications.

Messrs. Becks,	Twentythree thousand two hundred dollars	$23,200
" Pattersons,	Fourteen thousand four hundred "	14,400.
" Boyd & Murdock,	Thirteen thousand nine hundred and forty-five "	13,945
" Wm. Beck,	Seventeen thousand two hundred and twenty three "	17,223
" J. B. Chambers,	Fifteen thousand two hundred and three "	15,203.

On motion made and seconded, it was Resolved that the Bid of Messrs. Boyd & Murdock be accepted provided they give the Necessary Security for the Fulfillment of the Contract and sub-contractors be made satisfactory to the Board of Trustees.

On motion the subject of Bro. Kerr's salary be taken up, and

after some consideration was postponed until the next meeting of the Board.

The next meeting was held the next day, May 30, and it will be seen that the terms agreed upon between the Board and the architect were simply that he was to give his services at a reasonable and brotherly figure. It seems a small remuneration in these days, and even moderate as it was, Brother Kerr consented to accept part of his pay in the shape of stock in the proposed building. All these arrangements are shown by the following minutes:

Committee Room, May 30th, 1850. Trustees met at 4 o'clock, according to Adjournment. Prest.: J. W. Hailman, President; Hoon, Davitt, Noble, Layng, Shidle & McKinley.

Minutes of last meeting read & approved, When on motion it was Resolved to employ J. W. Kerr, Jur., as architect of the Hall, and voted him a salary of two hundred dollars for Superintending the Hall until its completion. Also one hundred dollars for the Plan and Specifications, Fifty dollars of the salary to be paid him in Stock.

On motion the bid of Messrs. Wright and Son to do the plastering of the Hall at the sum of Eight Hundred Dollars $800.00, was accepted.

On Motion made and seconded, resolved that the Coppers, Spouting, &so. be given to James L. Morehead at the sum of Three hundred & Forty Dollars, $340.00.

On motion made and seconded, resolved that the bid of Messrs. Boyd & Murdock be accepted with the above exceptions.

On motion made and seconded, resolved that 20 pr ct. of the Capital Stock be called in on or before the 15th of July.

Adjourned until Tuesday Evening 3rd of June at 8 o'clock.

We shall now continue quotations from the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Trustees which show consecutively the steps taken to bring about the erection and furnishing of the new Hall. We shall then revert to other records and certain publications for more extended details, relative to the construction of the edifice, the laying of the corner stone, the dedication of the building and episodes connected with its first occupancy by the brethren and by tenants of the parts devoted to rentals—the whole forming a historical recital of much interest and value.

As will be seen by reference to the minutes of the meeting of May 30, 1850, the next session was to be held June 3, but the date was changed to June 4, as follows:

Masonic Hall, Jun 4, 1850.

Trustees met at 5 o'clock; present, Broths. Hailman, Prest.; Hoon, Treas.; Shidle & Davitt. Broth. Secty being absent from the city, W. J. Davitt was call'd upon to take his place. Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

The Prest appointed Broths. Hoon, Shidle & Davitt Building Comm't for the ensuing month.

It is characteristic of nearly all the minutes of the early meetings of the Board of Trustees that they are brief and fragmentary, and give unfortunately only the merest details. They are, however, all of great help and value. Without doubt there was much discussion over many important questions, and rejections and acceptances of various propositions. But Brother Secretary McKinley sturdily kept up his practice of setting down in his records only meager information as to the most important matters which came before the Trustees. Thus, for example, there must have been a great deal of interesting talk over the big matters which the Board disposed of at its session of June 4, when arrangements were made for the date of the laying of the corner stone, the ceremonies to be followed and the invitations to be sent out. But Secretary McKinley calmly packs away these transactions in these few words:

Resolved, That the Corner Stone of the Masonic Hall be laid on the Fourth day of July next.

Broths. Hailman, Hoon & McKinley were elected a Commt. to make the necessary arrangements for laying the corner stone; also for inviting the G. L. of the State of Penna. & the Brothers at a distance to join us in the Procession.

Then at the next meeting other important matters were disposed of:

Masonic Hall, June 20, 1850.

Trustees met by Call from the president. Pres. J. W. Hailman, president; Bro. Hoon, Tres.; Bro. Davitt & Sec. S. McKinley. Minutes of last Meeting read and Approved. Com. on Laying Corner Stone reported progress. On motion, Bro. Jno. Birmingham was appointed Chief Marshal for the 4th inst.

On motion, a plate suitable for deposit was ordered to be prepared under the direction of the President.

As will be seen further on, the Committee on Laying the Corner Stone could well afford to report "progress." They had determined to make the laying of the stone a memorable event, and they were arranging a programme

which should be worthy of the great occasion. Brother John Birmingham, selected to be chief marshal of the procession on the coming Fourth of July, had been Worshipful Master of Lodge 45 away back in the year 1833 and in 1837 had been appointed District Deputy Grand Master for Allegheny County. He had long been conspicuous in river commerce and transportation and was the owner of several splendid steamboats.

One more meeting of the Trustees was held prior to the formal laying of the corner stone, the minutes of which are as follows:

Stated Meeting of Trustees of Masonic Fund Society held July 2nd, 1850, at the Hall, Pitts. Prest. J. W. Hailman, President; James Hoon, Tres.; S. McKinley, Sec.; also Bro. Davitt & Shidle.

On motion, Resolved that a Vault of suitable dimensions be erected in one of the rooms and that the Building Com. be instructed to procure frames, doors, &so., on the best terms they can.

The President was pleased to appoint Bros. Shidle, Davitt & McKinley building committee for the prest. month.

On motion made and seconded, Resolved that the bid of S. McKinley for painting and glazing be accepted, which is as follows:

The materials including Glass are to be furnished and work done as Trustees may direct, at the Pittsburg Painters' Book of prices, deducting 33 1/3 pr ct. therefrom, and 40 pr ct. on the work grained. 2/3 of the whole am't to be paid in certificates of stock.

"The Painter's Book of Prices" referred to in the above record embodied the scale of prices for work done, as agreed upon by the men in the painting and glazing business of that period. It will be seen by the records of the meetings of the Trustees given thus far that those earnest and progressive Free Masons went ahead with the utmost care in the work of producing a proper Hall for the brethren of the community; and the results were correspondingly successful and durable.

Let us now lay aside, for the time-being, the formal records of the meetings of the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society, and go back to the period when the people of Pittsburgh got the first precise information regarding the erection of the proposed Masonic Hall, which should be, for those days, an edifice worthy both of the great fraternity and of the fast developing city. This information was first publicly gained by the printing of advertisements for

MASONIC HALL.
Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Corner Stone Placed July 4, 1850.
Destroyed by Fire August 12, 1887.

proposals for the construction of the building. But it is proper to suppose that because of the prominence of the Masonic Order in Allegheny county and the kind of edifice to be erected, the matter would soon be a topic of general conversation. The lot on Fifth "street" having been purchased, the architect selected, the style of building decided upon and plans adopted for securing funds, the trustees went courageously ahead with the enterprise. The first thing to be done, was the removal of the old and delapidated buildings which stood on the site of the new Hall. This work was started early in April, 1850, and relative to it, we are furnished with this morsel of news by the Pittsburgh "Post" of Monday, April 22:

Masonic Hall—Workmen have commenced tearing down the old buildings opposite the Theatre, for the purpose of erecting a new Masonic Hall. It will be a magnificent building.

Before the end of May the foundations were being laid, and then came the announcement in the local newspapers of the proposed laying of the corner stone, on the 4th of July. The patriotic selection of that date was rendered additionally appropriate by the fact that on the very same day was to be laid, with imposing ceremony, the corner stone of the enlarged Capitol building at Washington, an event exceptionally memorable in the annals of the American Republic. The impressive ceremonies of that notable event were conducted almost entirely under the Masonic rites. It was on that occasion that the immortal Daniel Webster delivered one of his most celebrated orations, and another notable address was made by Brother Benjamin B. French, then Grand Master of Masons in the District of Columbia; and at the special and personal request of Webster, Brother French delivered his address before the great orator himself spoke.

Our Pittsburgh brethren made large preparations for the impressive placing of the corner stone of their edifice. The Grand Master and the officers of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania were invited, as were brethren from other localities. The local Masonic Bodies and the members individually prepared enthusiastically to participate in the coming ceremonies, and in the minutes of a meeting of Lodge

45, held Wednesday, June 26, 1850, with Brother James Hoon as Worshipful Master, we read the following:

W. Master James S. Hoon stated to the lodge that he was authorized to invite Lodge 45 to join in public procession at the laying of the corner stone on the new Masonic Hall, on the 4th day of July. On motion, said invitation was accepted by Lodge 45.

On motion of Brother R. H. McClellan that Lodge No. 45 appropriate $15.00 for the purpose of providing a dinner for our strange Brethren who join with us in procession on the 4th day of July at the laying of the Corner Stone of Masonic Hall; the Motion was agreed to.

The great day came at last. The weather was delightful and the sun sent down its cheeriest beams. The Grand Master and Officers of the Grand Lodge had arrived in Pittsburgh the day before, and it is to be remembered that seventy-one years ago a journey from Philadelphia, even though part of the way could be made on railway trains, was a matter of days and wearisome inconveniences. The R. W. Grand Master of Pennsylvania at that date was Brother William Whitney, and he was accompanied to Pittsburgh by the R. W. Deputy Grand Master, Brother Anthony Bourneville; the Grand Chaplain, Brother J. L. Burrows and others whose names have not been left on any record of that event. As for the records of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society, they never make mention of the ceremonies or of the personages attending it. Fortunately there was a competent and sympathetic chronicler on hand, in the person of Mr. Lecky Harper, then the proprietor and editor of the Pittsburgh "Morning Post." This amiable and popular gentleman was, to use the parlance of our day, an enthusiastic "booster" of everything Masonic, particularly in and about Pittsburgh. To his paper we are indebted for a detailed and vivid narrative of the event. Special attention had been given for the formation of the procession and the route over which it was to pass, by the chief marshal, Brother John Birmingham, and he published in the "Post" the following notice on July 3:

Blue Lodges, Royal Arch Chapter and Grand Lodge will meet at Wilkins Hall; Knights Templar at their room, corner of Third and Wood streets, at 9 o'clock, A. M.

Route of Procession: From Wilkins Hall down Fourth to Wood, down Wood to Water, down Water to Market, along Market to Fifth,

up Fifth to the Masonic Building, when the ceremonies of laying the Corner Stone will take place. After the Corner Stone is laid the procession will move up Fifth to Smithfield, along Smithfield to Sixth, up Sixth to the Grant Street Baptist Church, where an Oration will be delivered by the Rev. Sir Knight J. D. McCabe, of Wheeling, Va. Seats will be reserved for the ladies and citizens who may be pleased to honor us with their presence. After the Oration, the procession will move along Grant to Seventh, down Seventh to Hand, down Hand to Penn, down Penn to the Exchange Hotel, where a Collation will be served up for the Brethren.

John Birmingham,
Grand Marshal.

The arrangements thus made by Captain John Birmingham were carried out to the letter. But it requires some effort of the imagination to picture in these days the quaint aspect of the streets of Pittsburgh as they were on the day nearly three-quarters of a century ago when Chief Marshal Birmingham and his aids led that procession of earnest Masons, at the head of which walked gravely the R. W. Grand Master of the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania. The event was in every way a success and made a deep and most favorable impression upon the people of Pittsburgh, where unhappily still seethed, mostly for political purposes and profit, the ugly outpourings of the detested spirit of antimasonry. By reason of the fact that Mr. Lecky Harper, who in those days guided the destinies of the Pittsburgh "Post," possessed as a newspaper man the "instinct for news," and was entirely free from the virus of antimasonry, we are able to give here in detail all the features of the ceremonies attendant upon the laying of the corner stone of the new Hall on Fifth street. Having published no morning "Post" on the fifth of July, Mr. Harper devoted much space in the issue of July 6 to the Masonic demonstration, and from his paper we take the following description and formation of the procession:

Among the many interesting celebrations and ceremonies on the glorious 4th of July, those of the Masonic Fraternity were unquestionably the most interesting and imposing. We never witnessed anything more impressive and gorgeous. A celebration such as the one which called so large a number of Free Masons together is certainly an important event in the history of Pittsburg. Here in times past, fanaticism and bigotry held almost undisputed sway. The dema-

gogue, the hypocrite and the knave banded together for the purpose of heaping obloquy upon the Order that existed for many long centuries before Christ's Mission upon the earth, and still exists in all its original strength, purity and beauty. But the prejudices kindled by fanaticism have had their day; and the persecutors of Masons are now confined to a very few narrow-minded persons, who resort to such desperate measures for the purpose of making political capital.

The procession of the Fourth formed at Wilkins hall about 10 o'clock, as previously announced, and marched in the following order: Down Fourth street to Wood, down Wood to Water, down Water to Market, along Market to Fifth and down Fifth to the Masonic building:

Two Tylers with Swords,
Music
Two Stewards, Two and Two,
Entered Apprentices, Two and Two,
Fellow Craft,
Master Masons,
Junior Wardens,
Senior Wardens,
Masters of Lodges,
Organized Lodges,
Past Masters,
Mark Masters,
Most Excellent Masters,
Carriages Containing Guests.
Royal Arch Masons, Two and Two,
Music,
Grand Tyler,
Grand Steward with White Rod,
A Past Master with Vessel Containing Corn,
Principal Architect,
Two Past Masters, with Vessels Containing Oil and Wine,
Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer,
A Past Master with One Light,
Holy Bible, Square and Compass, by Master of
Lodge with Two Stewards,
Two Past Masters with Lights,
Grand Chaplain,
Grand Orator,
Two Grand Wardens,
Deputy Grand Master,
Past Deputy Grand Masters,
A Master with the Book of Constitutions,
Two Grand Deacons, with Black Rods,
Two Stewards with White Rods,
Grand Sword Bearer,

Grand Master,
President and Trustees of Masonic Fund Society,
Knights Templar.

Grand Marshal Birmingham had for his aids the following: Companion J. P. Glass, Comp. W. D. Wood and Comp. Samuel Snowden. The ceremonies of laying the Corner Stone were surpassingly beautiful and interesting. The stone was cut out so as to receive a copper box, about 12 inches square. In this box was deposited a copper plate, with the following inscription:

FAITH HOPE CHARITY
ANNO DOMINI, 1850 ANNO LUCIS, 5850

The Corner Stone of this Building,
Erected by the Masonic Fund Society,
Was laid on the 4th of July,
In the 74th Year of American Independence.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.
James W. Hailman, President,
Sam'l McKinley, Secretary,
James S. Hoon, Treasurer.
George W. Layng,
W. J. Davitt,
James Shidle.

Wm. Whitney, Grand Master
for the State of Pennsylvania.

ZACHARY TAYLOR,
President of the United States.
Wm. F. Johnston,
Governor of Pennsylvania.

Joseph W. Kerr, Architect.
Boyd & Murdock, Builders.

WISDOM STRENGTH BEAUTY

In the box placed in the Corner Stone the following articles were also deposited: The Holy Bible, presented by Miss Jeanette C. Davitt; the different American coins, viz: A gold dollar piece, a silver dollar, half dollar, quarter dollar, 10 and 5 cent pieces, a copper or cent; and one copy of the Daily Morning Post, dated July 4, 1850.

Mr. McKinley pronounced the work well done. Mr. James W. Hailman, one of the trustees, then delivered a very eloquent and appropriate address; after which, the procession again formed and marched to the Second Baptist Church on Grant street, which was soon filled to overflowing.

As soon as order was restored, the Throne of Grace was ad-

dressed by the Rev. M. Killikenny, of Kittanning. The Orator of the day, the Rev. J. D. McCabe, of Wheeling, then delivered one of the most eloquent, patriotic and feeling addresses it has ever been our good fortune to hear. Although evidently prepared on short notice, it was truly a beautiful production; and the clear, deep, musical voice of the speaker gave it additional force and strength. Mr. McCabe's reputation as an orator had preceded him; but still we were not prepared to hear anything half so good from him as was his oration on this occasion. We shall not attempt to give even a synopsis of the Rev. gentleman's remarks, for we would thereby do him and the subject gross injustice. We trust, however, that the oration will be published.

After Mr. McCabe had concluded, Judge Shaler, of this city, arose for the purpose, he said, of thanking, in behalf of the Masonic Fraternity, the trustees of the Baptist church for their kindness in unanimously passing a resolution allowing the Masons the use of their church. This act, declared Judge Shaler, was especially appreciated, as the trustees of the other churches had declined to show a similar liberality. He therefore proposed to the fraternity to raise a collection for the benefit of the church, which appeal was promptly responded to, and the snug little sum of $75 was raised on the spot.

A number of chants and appropriate pieces of music were admirably sung by the choir; and after the ceremonies were over, the procession was again formed, and marched to the Exchange Hotel, where an excellent dinner was served up by Mr. Owston. About 230 persons sat down to the tables.

Altogether the ceremonies were deeply interesting, and the best feeling imaginable prevailed amongst all who participated. Not a single unpleasant incident occurred to disturb the harmony of the proceedings.

Thus closes Mr. Harper's vivid, valuable and appreciative account of the laying of the corner stone of a structure which when completed became at once, both from its high import as a Masonic building and from its architectural excellence, a distinct and important ornament to the city. And we do not think it amiss to register here a sincere expression of gratitude to the memory of Mr. Leckey Harper, who has left us the only adequate description of the ceremonies of an event which was a great step in the triumphant progress of the Craft in Western Pennsylvania.

Supplementary to Mr. Harper's narrative, we are able to give here some further details of this masonically historic celebration. The corner stone was laid in place by D. D. Grand Master Samuel McKinley, according to the

ancient rites, and as each article, enumerated by Mr. Harper, was deposited in the copper box in the cavity in the corner stone, it was mentioned in a loud voice by Brother John Irons, W. M. of the Lodge at Uniontown. The articles themselves were placed in the box by Brother C. Headly, W. M. of Columbia Lodge, No. 91, of Philadelphia. Silence being proclaimed, the workmen's tools were then presented to the R. W. Grand Master, who applied the Square, Plumb and Level to the stone, and pronounced it "well formed, true and trusty." The stone was then adjusted to its place and the Rev. Sir Knight J. L. Burrows, Grand Chaplain, pronounced the prescribed prayer. The R. W. Grand Master then received from Brother Charles Shaler the Cornucopia; from Brother R. E. Brown the vessel with wine; from Brother Brenneman the vessel with oil, and then poured the contents of each upon the stone. After a formal announcement by the Grand Chaplain, D. D. Grand Master McKinley struck the stone with his gavel, and the public grand honors of Masonry were given. The Grand Master then delivered to Brother James W. Kerr, the architect, the working tools, saying:

Brother Architect—I present you these implements of architecture, and entrust to your care the direction and superintendence of this building; and we have confidence from your known skill as a master workman, that this edifice, when finished, will present to the inhabitants of this city and to the world, strength, beauty and permanency, forming a line parallel with the immutability of our laws, and the great moral truths therein to be taught and inculcated.

Brother Hailman, President of the Board of Trustees, then delivered an address felicitiously worded, expressing sublime Masonic principles, after which the procession moved to the Baptist church on Grant street, of which Rev. J. H. Burlingham was then pastor. A large number of ladies were in the audience, and the choir under the direction of Brother S. W. Stone, vocal conductor, and Brother Henry Roboch, organist, rendered with fine effect the "Master Mason's Song," after which the Grand Chaplain offered prayer. The choir again sang, followed by the address of Brother McCabe, of Wheeling, P. G. H. P. of the G. R. A. Chapter of Virginia and M. E. Grand Prelate of the Grand Encampment, K. T., of Virginia.

Thus these memorable ceremonies came to an end, and as the brethren and their friends retired from the church, the choir sang the following impressive lines:

When shall we meet again—
Meet ne'er to sever;
When will Hope wreathe her chain
Around us forever.

Truly it can be said that every feature of this event was impressive and the whole a Masonic triumph. The brethren had ample justification for the feeling of elation that must have filled their hearts as they saw that Masonically historic day come to a close. Yet there was one cloud of disappointment that affected particularly the members of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society and which was soon to develop into sad results. It will be seen by reference to the minutes, heretofore quoted, of meetings of the Board that the name of Brother George W. Layng does not appear on these records for several sessions prior to the ceremonies of July 4th. He had left Pittsburgh some time before on a mission of filial duty. His aged father was at that time residing at Mobile, Alabama, where the dreaded scourge of cholera was raging, as it was, but in a much less degree, in the city of Pittsburg and environments. Brother Layng brought his father to Pittsburgh a day or so after the date of the laying of the corner stone. On the evening of July 10, at about six o'clock as he was about to enter an omnibus to go to his home on Center avenue, he was suddenly stricken with cholera and fell to the ground. He was immediately conveyed to his home, and to the great sorrow of his many friends he passed to his eternal rest at three o'clock the next morning. A few days later his daughter, a charming girl of eighteen years of age, was struck down by the same terrible plague and soon followed her father to the grave. To add to the bitter woes of that bereft household, the wife of Brother Layng was also stricken by the same disease, but after much suffering she recovered. Thus passed away one of the creators of the Masonic Fund Society and one who had always labored zealously and effectively towards the establishment of Masonry in Western Pennsylvania and had been untiring

in his efforts to bring about the construction of the Masonic building.

Within a short time after the laying of the corner stone there were two vacancies on the Board of Trustees, that of Brother Layng, who had died and that of Brother William Noble, who had resigned. To fill these vacancies the stockholders held a meeting on July 23, 1850, and at this session Brother Charles Shaler, prominent as a citizen and as a Mason, was brought into the Board of Trustees. The other new member chosen was Brother J. L. Stewart, of Lodge 45. No mention of the ceremonies of July 4th is made in the record of this stockholders' meeting. The first direct reference made to the new building after the laying of the corner stone is found in the minutes of a session of the Board of Trustees, held August 8, 1850, as follows:

On motion, Resolved that the estimate of work done and material furnished to the Hall be paid.

Bros. Stewart, Shidle and Hoon were appointed Building Committee for the present month.

It is evident from the above that funds were coming in, and it may with good reason be supposed that the interest aroused by the Fourth of July demonstration had not only brought the local Craft into greater prominence, but had also loosened up many more Masonic purse strings. So having got the corner stone duly placed, and with funds on hand, the work on the Hall was vigorously pushed onward, as it was particularly desirous to have it under roof before the winter set in. In fact, they got along so well with the construction that practical arrangements were soon completed to procure tenants for those portions of the structure to be rented for business purposes. Already in the preceding May this matter had been taken up by the Trustees, and an effort was being made to have the United States Post office located in the new building, as is shown by the following record of a meeting of October 3, 1850:

Stated meeting of Trustees held at Hall, October 3, 1850.

Present: J. W. Hailman, president; Hoon, Treasurer; McKinley, Sec'y; also Bros. Shidle and Stewart.

The President was pleased to appoint Bros. Hoon, Shaler & Shidle Building Com. for the present month.

Also Bros. Shaler & Shidle a Committee to confer with the Post

Master relative to renting the first story of Hall, and on motion made and seconded, the President was requested to serve as Chairman of said Com.

But negotiations for the post office fell through. Shortly after the above mentioned meeting this advertisement appeared in local newspapers:

THE FIRST FLOOR AND BASEMENT OF THE MASONIC HALL
FIFTH STREET,

The First Floor is subdivided into two Store Rooms, 20 x 60 feet, and will be very desirable for Fancy Stores. Two Rooms back, suitable for offices—access to which is by a wide Hall running through the Centre of the building. The basement will be furnished in a neat manner and will be suitable for Retail Variety Stores, Trunk and Harness Makers, &c.

The whole will be ready by the first of April.

James W. Hailman, Water Street.

Further progress is shown by the records of a meeting held October 12, 1850:

On motion the Building Com. was instructed to take proposals for gas fixtures, and, in connection with the Architect, to have the same completed at the earliest time possible.

The last record for the year 1850 in connection with the building operations is that of a session of the Trustees on December 30:

On motion Resolved that the Building Com. is hereby instructed to have the 1st Story and Basement Rooms furnished by the 1st of April.

In the meantime the public watched the construction of the edifice with much interest. For those days it would be an imposing structure. And indeed, in the year 1850 Fifth street needed imposing structures. It also sadly needed street improvements. A rather disgusted newspaper man complains in his paper that it makes one quite weary to struggle through "the mud up from Wood street to Grant street." But he found some hope in the rumor that Fifth street would soon be vastly improved by the "laying down of a handsome board pavement." Board pavements were much in fashion then and most welcome, as where there were no board pavements there was mud or dust. So that with the completion of the Masonic Hall and the proposed construction of other buildings along the thoroughfare, the prospects for transforming Fifth street

were not without solid base. Nor did the erection of the Hall go on without encouraging newspaper notice. On August 22, 1850, Mr. Lecky Harper made this enthusiastic observation:

> The work on the Masonic Temple on Fifth street is progressing rapidly. When completed it will be altogether the most magnificent building in the city, or in the West.

This flattering declaration was supplemented by the same gentleman by the announcement, on October 5, that "the brick work of the Masonic Temple has been completed." Apparently from these notices, the structure was not to be, in the popular estimation, merely a "Hall." It was to be a "Temple." Nor did the year 1850 go by without some recognition from the Grand Lodge itself. We find in the minutes of the Annual Grand Communication, December 27, that the R. W. Grand Master, Brother William Whitney, who had officiated at the laying of the corner stone, was pleased to say:

> The Brethren of Pittsburgh have, I understand, at considerable expense, commenced the erection of a neat and commodious hall, in which to hold their meetings, and they expect to have it completed and ready for dedication in the course of the coming year.

For the Masonic brethren throughout Pennsylvania, and particularly in Pittsburgh, the year 1850 ended with the brightest prospects for future growth in numbers and influence. In his address before the Grand Lodge December 27, 1850, the R. W. Grand Master had said:

> The city (Philadelphia) lodges have all paid up their dues. The country lodges have done the same, with but very few exceptions. From the lodges generally, under this jurisdiction, we are receiving such flattering accounts of their prosperity as to induce us to believe that few, if any, hereafter will long remain in arrears.****I think that I may say with confidence, that at no period, within the memory of the most aged brother now present, has our Order, throughout the State, been so prosperous as we find it at the present time.

In Pittsburgh and in the adjacent territory where there were Masonic lodges, not only were they all flourishing, but the most fraternal harmony prevailed. The city itself was making great strides in the way of increase of population and industrial and commercial expansion. At the beginning of 1850 there were within the limits of the municipality and near by, thirteen rolling mills, thirty large foun-

dries, five large cotton mills, a copper smelting works and many other smaller enterprises. Arrangements were being completed for the construction of a City Hall and market house, and the United States government was about to begin the erection of its Custom House and post office building on Fifth street, almost side by side with the new Hall of the Masons. According to the minutes of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society, no difficulty was then being experienced in securing money to defray the cost of the construction work on their building. Old subscriptions were being paid and new ones secured, with the result that building operations went on without delay.

We shall now return to the records of the Board of Trustees for further information relative to the completion of the building, the negotiations for tenants and the arrangements for the dedication of the edifice, in 1851. The first record of this year dealing with the building is that of a Trustees' meeting on January 7, where it is stated that "the president appointed Bros. Shidle, Hoon and English Building Com. for the present month." At the next gathering of the Trustees, February 7, 1851, the following action was taken:

Resolved that the Building Committee be instructed to have the first story divided with hall in centre and store room and adjoining room on either side of hall.

Resolved, that the President advertise the rooms on the first story for rent.

The President appointed Bros. Shidle and McCammon building Com. for present month.

As is shown by the records and by the promptness with which the rooms in the Hall were subsequently rented, good tenants were not difficult to secure. But also there came some applications from would-be renters who were not so desirable. Certain persons wished to rent parts of the new structure, when completed, for restaurant and saloon purposes. It was at this period that the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society reached a conviction and established a precedent from which no deviation has ever been allowed in the management of all the edifices which have been succesively erected by the Craft within the city of Pittsburgh. They then decided, and at subsequent times firmly adhered

to their decision, that there should be no part of their Masonic building devoted to either restaurants or to saloons. Their first action on this matter was unanimously taken at a meeting of the Trustees, the minutes of which read as follows:

Trustees met in Hall March 4th, A. D. 1851. Pres.: Bros. Hailman, Shaler, McCammon, Shidle & McKinley. Minutes of Stated and Adj'd Meetings read and apprv'd. An application having been made to the president to rent one of the store rooms for a Restaurant, on Motion made and seconded, it was unanimously Resolved, That no part of the building be rented for a restaurant or drinking house.

The president was pleased to appoint Bros. Shidle, McCammon & Hoon building Com. for the present month.

The above action and decision were in full consonance with an earlier and notable declaration on the same subject expressed at a great convocation of the brethren in Pittsburgh, an all too brief record of which has been preserved in the minutes of a meeting of Lodge 45, held August 28, 1850, as follows:

The following communication was read and ordered to be Entered on the Minutes: "At a meeting of Past and present D. D. G. Masters, Past and present Masters and Wardens of Lodges of Free and Accepted A. Y. Masons, assembled at the Hall, corner Wood and Third Streets, August 27th, A. D. 1850, A. L. 5850, on motion made by Past Master W. W. Wilson and duly seconded by W. M. A. Tindle, the following resolution was offered: Resolved, That it is the opinion and decision of the now assembled D. D. G. Masters, Past and present Masters and Wardens, That the habitual and intemperate use of Liquor is contrary to the obligations, and teachings, of Masonry, and dangerous to the welfare of the Craft; and that the Several Lodges in this Jurisdiction be requested, most affectionately, to conform to this expression of opinion. Unanimously adopted.

Signed, S. McKinley, Chairman.

A. Bradley, Secretary.

For what other purpose this notable gathering of Masonic officers, past and present, met is not known. Extended research has failed to bring to light additional information relative to this meeting of 1850 and its objects. They must have considered various matters of importance to the local Craft. It may be safely assumed that in addition to the subject of liquor, earnest attention was given to the project of erecting the new Hall and to the general welfare of the fraternity. There was doubtless heard the eloquent

voice of Judge Shaler as he sought for and gave counsel. There also would be heard the earnest McKinley, directing, as chairman, the interesting proceedings. The grave face of Shidle would light up with pleasure as he urged the adoption of the important motions, and he would be ably supported by the firm declarations of Hoon. There, too, would be Hailman and Tindle, and others of that brave, sincere and cultured band of Masons who in those now far-off days were adding lustre and giving strength to the Craft, all of them exerting an influence which was to grow in extent and power through all the years down to the times of our own brilliant Masonic existence.

Remembering how greatly we are indebted for so much of our early Masonic information to Mr. Lecky Harper it is pleasing to find his name mentioned in the minutes of a meeting of the Trustees, March 20, 1851, to the effect that, "On motion made and seconded, resolved that Mr. Leckey Harper be requested to procure a Cut of the New Hall;" a request which he carried out satisfactorily, as the wood-cut of the new building which he ordered made and later printed in his newspaper is the one now found in all the publications which furnish a picture of that edifice.

When the trustees met on April 28, the committee having charge of the selection and purchase of the furniture and fittings of the new building was requested to "issue proposals to have the different apartments furnished." At the next meeting, May 8, the bids received were opened, and it was "Resolved, that I. Lemmon & Co's bid be accepted & the committee instructed to close the same, provided said Lemmon & Co. agrees to number the setees." The following is the bid as accepted: "144 Setees, 10 ft. long, painted Orange Color in Oil, at $5.75 apiece." Then, at the meeting held May 15, Brother Hailman being president of the Board, bids were accepted for:

Two Solid Sofas at $3.50 per ft., with Springs, and covered with Blue plush. Also eight Large Arm Chairs. The Two Sofas 10 ft. each, at $50 Each. 100 Arm Chairs at $1.25 per Chair. Cushions for chairs at $2.95 each.

At the same meeting:

The Board ordered that the president be added to the Committee

on Furniture, and the Com. have power to order the two principal Chairs for the East with whomsoever they thought best.

This session of the Trustees held May 15, 1851, is of exceptional interest from a Masonic historical standpoint, as it was the last meeting of the Board to convene in the old "Hall" in the Darsie building at the corner of Wood and Third streets, which they had rented shortly after the fire of 1845 had destroyed their building at the northwest corner of Smithfield and Third streets, title to which had been, as has been shown, the subject of the litigation between the Masons and Mr. Darsie. It was almost six years since the great conflagration and during that time the brethren had gone to considerable expense to furnish and decorate the rooms used by them. They had occupied in this building one large room on the third story, and at least two small adjoining chambers. The entrance to the Masonic rooms was by a stairway leading up from a doorway opening on Third street, now Third avenue. After the Masons had removed from the place into their new large Hall on Fifth avenue the third story was used for many years as a printing establishment, and the present writer has been told by one of the old time printers, still living in Pittsburgh, and who "set type" in the old building years ago, that the apprentice boys used to find huge enjoyment in knocking with great ceremony upon the door leading into the room formerly occupied by the Masons and then howling out mysterious "pass words" through the little opening in the door. Twenty or more years ago this ancient structure was torn down and replaced by a larger building, which in its turn has been demolished and upon which site is being erected in this year of 1922 an imposing edifice for the Pittsburgh Y. M. C. A, which organization now owns the property. The trustees present at the last meeting there, May 15, 1851, were Brother Hailman, who was president of the Board; and Brothers Shidle, Hoon, McKinley and English.

From the beginning of the year 1851 the local newspaper became more observant of the progress of the work on the Fifth avenue structure. Particular public attention was attracted to it by an extended publication in the "Morning Post" of March 31. This was a carefully prepared ar-

ticle, not only descriptive of the structure, but also giving a recital of the reasons that led up to the decision to erect it. A large and accurate picture of the building illustrated the article. Later came a memorable event that brought the edifice into a more pronounced public notice. This was the appearance in the new Hall in 1851 of the famous songstress, Jenny Lind, under the personal supervision of the famous P. T. Barnum. Of this notable, as well as exciting event, a more extended account will be found further on.

On March 27, 1851, this information was printed in the "Post:"

We have in the hands of the engraver a view of the splendid new Masonic Hall on Fifth street. It will be ready for use about a week from this time. We shall at the same time give a full and interesting description of the building. Persons who may wish extra copies of the paper will please leave their orders at the office as soon as convenient.

This article, accompanied by the picture, is of especial value, as it is the only complete description of the building to be found, and is now printed for the first time since its publication seventy years ago. It is given herewith in full:

Above we present to our readers a beautiful and very accurate view of the new Masonic Temple on Fifth street, engraved expressly for the Morning Post by Mr. Neville Johnson, of this city.

It may be proper briefly to state the progress of Masonry in this city within the last 5 years and some of the circumstances which led directly to the erection of the above Hall. In 1845 only one lodge existed in this city—Lodge 45—which for more than half a century pursued its peaceful labors, holding its meetings in the hall, corner Third and Smithfield streets, which was destroyed by the great fire of 10th of April, of that year. The members were few and being unable to rebuild, were obliged to rent small and inconvenient apartments which, in consequence of the rapid increase of members were soon found to be entirely inadequate. It was deemed prudent, however, to continue to use the hired rooms even at great inconvenience, until the Fraternity would gather strength and means to build a Hall, which would be an ornament to the city, and a credit to the Craft. In the Spring of 1840 a seond lodge was constituted, and soon after another, and the Order continued to increase in favor; so that in 1849 there were four lodges of Ancient York Masons, a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, a Council of Royal and Select Masters, and Encampment of K. T. It was *now* absolutely necessary that larger and more commodious apartments should be had. Accordingly it was determined to make an effort to erect a Hall, but how to carry this effort into execution

was a question not easily solved, as the amount of means which would be required would be much greater than the lodges in their organized capacity would be able to contribute. It was therefore proposed to form a joint stock company, or "Masonic Fund Society," for the purpose of building a Hall and creating a fund for charitable uses. This received the approbation of the Brethren, and in the Spring of 1849 the "Fund Society" was organized. A lot of ground on Fifth street, 70 feet front by 120 feet deep, was purchased for the sum of $10,500. In October following, a Charter was obtained. The prospect was now encouraging; and the Brethren, with commendable liberality, subscribed for the stock; so that early in the Spring of 1850 a contract was made for the building of a Hall, for $4,000, exclusive of the painting and ornamental work, which will cost $3,000. The furniture for the lodge room and Chapter will probably cost $2,500; making the entire cost of building, lot, Hall and furniture, $30,000.

The "Fund Society" being now in a situation to push forward the work, determined to fix upon an early day upon which to lay the foundation stone. It was thought not inappropriate to select the 4th of July, the birthday of our Republic; as it would be beautifully consistent with the true democratic principles of the Order, which keeps alive true equality and warm affection among its members; and through these members conveys these principles to the world.

Accordingly the corner stone was laid with appropriate ceremonies on the day designated.

The Masonic Hall has a front of 70 feet and is 110 feet deep. The body of the building is 53 feet wide, leaving a space of 8½ feet on each side for light and air, in the front of which space are placed the stairways. The whole building is 3 stories in height, the first story being 14 feet, the second 25 feet and the 3rd 15 feet high; the second story being approached by a stairway on one side, and the third by a second stairway on the other side. The third story of the building is devoted exclusively to Masonic purposes, and is divided into two commodious rooms, one 19 x 20, and the other 30 x 70 feet, with their ante-rooms. The large room is designed for the use of the Blue Lodges, of which there are now five in the city, and the Encampment of K. T. The other will be occupied by the Royal Arch Chapter and the Council of Royal and Select Masons. The second story forms one clear room, 49 feet 8 inches wide, by 100 feet long, and will be furnished in the richest manner, with a highly ornamental ceiling; and as it has large windows on all the sides, besides ventilating flues leading up to the wall, will be well ventilated. The stairway to this room forms one broad flight, 8 feet wide; but there being two sets of stairs, the room can be entered from either side; so that in case of large crowds both sides can be used, affording abundant and easy egress. This room is intended for concerts, exhibitions, etc.

The first story and basement will be occupied by stores, the

Board of Trustees having determined to permit no restaurant or drinking establishment within these walls. The walls above ground are of brick, excepting the front of the first story, which is of polished stone work, and all are designed for great strength, being 22 inches thick up to the third floor, and 18 inches thick above that level.

The whole building is covered with a slate roof. The building was designed and superintended by J. W. Kerr. The stone work was executed by George Howarth; the carpenter work by Boyd & Murdock; the plain plastering by Wright & Sons; the ornamental plastering by Blythe & Morganoth: the painting by S. McKinley; the gas fixtures by Gallagher, Long & Miller, and the brick work by Columbus Coleman.

The erection of the Hall is a proud achievement for the Craft and for the city. Five years since there was but one lodge with but few members, and a small hired room to meet in. Now there are five lodges, viz.: Lodge 45; St. John's Lodge, Franklin Lodge, Solomon's Lodge and Washington Lodge. There are also an Encampment of K. T., a Royal Arch Chapter and a Council of Royal and Select Masters. There is also a Lodge and Mt. Moriah Council in Allegheny City. Such has been the progress of Masonry in this city within the past five years. Its object, in its associated action, is to promote true equality, inculcate pure morality, and administer relief to the destitute among its members.

No Masonic brother can read the above interesting and illuminating recital without a feeling of just pride in the courage, the progressiveness and the spirit of devotion so unfalteringly displayed by those Pittsburgh Masons of seventy years ago in entering upon and carrying through so triumphantly a labor of service and of beauty that should present visible evidence, in the form of an elegant edifice, of the elevating and useful aims of our great Fraternity. And this structure, when completed, was a real ornament to the city, and down until its destruction by fire in 1887, it easily met favorable comparison with other Masonic buildings throughout the country.

During the progress of the work the local newspapers continued to make note of its advancement. On April 17, 1851, the "Chronicle" had these lines:

Masonic Hall.—This beautiful building is fast approaching to completion. One of its cellars is already tenanted.

Again on April 22 we are informed that "the workmen are busily engaged on Fifth street, in laying the gas pipes that are to furnish Masonic Hall." Work was vigorously

pushed through during the winter and spring, and by the first of May, 1851, not only was the basement rented, but there had been provided a meeting place for the Board of Trustees. Thus it came about that the first session of the Board was held in the new Hall, the interior of which was still far from completion, on the third day of June, 1851, and the Secretary, Brother Samuel McKinley, does not fail to make note of that interesting fact in his minutes, which are in the following form:

Called Stated Meeting of Trustees of Masonic Fund Society was held at the New Hall, Tuesday, June 3d, 1851. Pres.: Hailman, Hoon; Shidle, & McKinley.

Minutes Read and Approved.

The Com. on furniture Reported that in Consequence of Jno. C. Davitt declining to Make the 2 Soffas, they, together with the two Large Chairs, were given to Minas Tindle, the Soffas to be made in the best Manner for the sum of $50 Each. The Three Pedestals for Blue Lodge Room were given to Messrs. Troth & Phelan at 10 dollars Each, to be made in the best Manner.

The blinds to Westervelt at four dollars fifty cts. Each. The blinds to be painted Pearl & Scarlett.

On Motion Made and Seconded, the Masonic Bodies have the use of this Room for the Transaction of business and their Regular Meetings.

Board aj'd.

S. McKinley, Sec. of Board.

The names of the merchants noted in the above minutes were those of leading business men of Pittsburgh at that time. John C. Davitt was a cabinet maker on Smithfield street, near Water street and resided on Fourth street at the corner of Second street. The other names noted were citizens whose locations are given as follows in the Pittsburgh Directory of 1850, the street numbers being of course of that year: Minas Tindle, chair maker at No. 21 Smithfield street; Troth & Phelan on Smithfield street, "between 5th & Diamond alley, cabinet and chair makers;" R. M. Vestervelt, "venetian blinds," at No. 13 St. Clair street, now Federal street.

Being now in their new Hall, the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society so solidly established that organization as a working and guiding Masonic force that it has come

down through three-quarters of a century without ever taking one step backward and without any deviation in its straight course of intelligent management and service. Naturally the first matters which chiefly demanded their attention at this period were the completion and furnishing of the Hall and the accumulation of funds necessary to pay for building operations. Their methods and successes in securing the funds have been shown in the preceding chapter. Here we are concerned with the building only.

All the subsequent meetings of the Board were henceforth held in the new structure, and much important business was attended to at their second session there on June 16, 1851. It was decided to ask for bids for the painting of the lodge room and the large "Concert room," a place which was soon to become highly popular by reason of the high class entertainments and lectures which were given therein. Also "a diagram for the Altar was adopted." They also arranged for "extra furnishing in the West of Chapter room," and the Chapter and Blue Lodge rooms are "to be covered with Brussels Carpet, and the Platform with Oil Cloth." In the meantime, from all appearances, desirable tenants were on hand. On June 14 the "Chronicle" newspaper announces that "the lower stories of the Masonic Hall are about occupied by stores." And amiably it adds this recommendation: "This is an excellent location for business and the stock in this building will increase in value each year, as it is close to the site selected for the government building." Inquiries began to be received more numerously by the Board from would-be tenants, and in the minutes of the only meeting of the Trustees held in July it is set down that "the President was pleased to announce that he had rented the Upper Cellar room to Mr. Dake at the sum of $112 perannum." It is sometimes difficult in taking note of the rentals subsequently obtained for space in the new Hall, to refrain from the belief that our worthy brethren who were hoping for a good income from this source were perhaps remiss in fixing such low rent charges. But this idea promptly disappears when one considers the enormous difference in rentals and the expense of living as they were seventy years ago and as they are in

these high priced times of the troublous years following the Great War. But we shall see later on that one highly esteemed tenant who paid at the start a couple of hundred dollars for a store room in the Masonic Hall ended years later by signing a lease that called for a yearly outgo in rent in the same structure of $18,000. Times change, and so do rents.

As the work on the building progressed the brethren of the different Masonic Bodies in the city began to be particularly eager to occupy the new edifice. But it had been decided that the building should be formally dedicated before any of the Bodies moved in, and arrangements were started for that ceremony in July, 1851. At a meeting of the Trustees held August 5 the following action in that matter was taken:

On motion, resolved, That the Hall be dedicated by Public procession on Wednesday, 1st October coming, and that the President, Secretary and Bro. Shidle be a Committee of Invitation.

It was also announced at this meeting that "Bro. S. B. Cooper was appointed janitor of the Hall at a salary of $225 and rent free, his duty to be defined by the President." Brother Cooper, who thus became the first janitor, continued in that position for five years. He was a member of Lodge 45. At this same session it was resolved that the "President and Secretary call a meeting or Convocation in the new Hall Monday evening next at 8 o'clock."

The original intention of dedicating the edifice before the lodges occupied it fell through. The membership had grown so fast that the room at Wood and Third street had become entirely too small, and they clamored for quarters in the Fifth avenue building. As a result of this insistence, two rooms were hastily finished and partially furnished, and on Wednesday evening, June 25, 1851, old Lodge 45 had the honor of holding the first lodge meeting in the building. Important action in the matter of the occupancy of the Hall by the Bodies was taken at a meeting held August 11, which was attended by Brothers Hailman, Hoon, Shidle, McCammon and McKinley. The minutes read:

On motion made and seconded, Resolved that the resolution passed at our last meeting, giving permission to occupy the Hall on and after

the last Wednesday of this month, be reconsidered. Carried. And on motion made it was resolved that the possession be given to the Encampment, Chapter and Lodges on and after the 12th inst.

On motion, Resolved that the Encampment may have the use of Chapter Room at such times as may not interfere with the meetings of the Chapter.

The minutes of this meeting also make the pleasant announcement "that the President be authorized to accept from Bros. Davidge & Eakins the Three Lights in Masonry, and on behalf of the Trustees return thanks for the same."

The Convocation called pursuant to the resolution adopted by the Trustees at their meeting of August 5, as noted above, assembled in the new Hall Monday evening, August 11. It was largely attended, and must have been a most delightful and enthusiastic affair. It was the first general gathering of the brethren in the building and we can easily picture those happy Masons congratulating each other on the acquisition of their elegant new home for the various Masonic Bodies. Secretary McKinley has left us an account of the event, but as usual he sets down only the leading facts. It is not difficult, however, to see that this careful brother was himself deeply moved by the incidents of the evening, for all through his terse record there is a note of jubilation. He says:

August 11, 1851. Trustees assembled in the new Hall, there being present a very large assemblage of the brethren; when addresses were made by Bros. Hailman, Shaler, James I. Craft and others. A large amount of stock subscribed and loans taken.

On behalf of Bros. Thomas Davage and Samuel Eakin, the Three Great Lights were presented to the Masonic Fund Society, for the use of the Lodges. Brother Shaler presented the same with a few remarks, very appropriate to the occasion, and the President returned thanks in a very impressive and learned manner.

A set of Gavels of beautiful design were also presented to the Masonic Fund Society, for the use of the Lodges, by Bro. J. W. Hailman. Brother Shaler also presented these with appropriate remarks, when, on motion, the vote of the Society expressed thanks to Brother Hailman.

On motion duly made and seconded, resolved that the vote of the Stockholders be given to the Trustees of the M. F. S. for the able and zealous manner in which they have conducted the affairs of this Society. Carried.

Altogether that was a great convocation of the breth-

ren. With the liberal subscriptions of stock, the presentation of elegant and appropriate gifts, the eloquent addresses and the immense satisfaction felt over the erection of their fine Hall, the Convocation must have been extremely enjoyable and encouraging, and it is to be regretted that no fuller account has been left to us. But while the brethren could thus properly jubilate, the Trustees themselves had to settle down to a real practical management of concerns connected with the new Hall. At a meeting of September 13 it was decided that "the expenses of gas lights be paid by the different bodies of Masons occupying the halls;" also that "all applications for renting the halls be made to the Trustees through the President, and by some authorized person." There was also a resolution adopted to the effect that "Mount Moriah Council have the hall at the rate of $60 per annum."

There are records of but one meeting in September, 1851, that of the 13th, as noted above. The next session of the trustees was held October 17, and it was probably at this meeting that the date for the dedication was changed, although there is no mention of such proceeding on the minutes. As has been stated, the date for this ceremony was originally set for the first of October, but the event actually transpired on October 9. The preparations for this ceremony had gone on apace. Many invitations were sent out to the Grand Lodge and to the brethren in Pennsylvania and in other States. The invitations were most cordially worded and left no doubt as to the real desire of the Pittsburgh brethren to have a great attendance of the Craft. The invitations were in the form of a printed circular, and read in this manner:

CIRCULAR.

The Masonic Hall, the corner stone of which was laid in the city of Pittsburg, on the 4th of July, 1850, is now completed, and the 9th day of October next fixed upon for its dedication to "Universal Benevolence," according to the ancient usages of the fraternity. We cordially and fraternally invite you to be present and participate with us in the ceremonies of the occasion.

The procession will form at 10 O'clock, A. M., and after the ceremonies of dedication, an oration will be delivered by a distinguished brother.

We shall be happy to greet you on that day.
Fraternally,
James W. Hailman,
S. McKinley,
James Shidle,
Committee.

Pittsburg, Aug. 5, 1851.

The invitations brought many visiting brethren to Pittsburgh, and the Grand Lodge was well represented. The R. W. Grand Master William Whitney, who had officiated at the laying of the corner stone in July, arrived in the city on October 7 with quite a retinue of Grand Lodge officers and other brethren from Philadelphia. A local newspaper of date of October 8, 1851, has this paragraph:

A number of Grand Lodge Officers of the Grand Masonic Lodge of Philadelphia have arrived in this city and are stopping at the St. Clair hotel. They came for the purpose of participating in the ceremony of dedicating the Masonic Hall. A set of Masonic regalia will be presented to the Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge this evening at the Allegheny City Lodge room.

Further official notice of the ceremony of dedication was given by the publication in the newspapers of this announcement:

Lodges' Notice: The different Lodges meeting in the Cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny and any sojourning Brethren in both cities, are respectfully requested to meet at the Masonic Hall, on Fifth street above Wood, for the purpose of dedicating the same, at 9 o'clock in the morning. Immediately after the ceremony of dedication is over, the procession will form and proceed over the route as laid down in the programme; returning to the Hall, where an oration will be delivered by Mr. King. To the Oration the public is invited.

By Order of the Grand Master.
S. McKinley, D. D. G. M.

The "Mr. King" mentioned in this notice was Brother Dr. James King, a member and later Master of St. John's Lodge, No. 219. He had removed from Westmoreland county to Pittsburgh, and was in 1855 the orator at the dedication of the new Masonic Hall in Philadelphia and later served in the Civil War as a Surgeon-General, in the armies of the North.

An artistically printed programme had been prepared, giving the line of march and other details. Unfortunately no copy of this paper seems to be extant. Now again the

columns of Mr. Leckey Harper's newspaper furnish the material to fill up this gap in our narrative, for he published a facsimile of the programme, which was embellished at the top of the first leaflet with an elaborate symbolic design, comprising a large circle of expanding sun rays, inclosing the working tools of the Craft, with the following "Order of Procession:

DEDICATION OF MASONIC HALL.
ORDER OF PROCESSION.
On Thursday, Oct. 9th, '51

Two Tylers with Drawn Swords
Music
Tyler of the Oldest Lodge
Two Stewards of Oldest Lodge, with White Rods
Entered Apprentices
Fellow Craft
Master Masons.

Tylers
Stewards
Junior Deacons
Senior Deacons
Secretaries
Treasurers
Junior Wardens
Senior Wardens
Past Masters
Masters.

Trustees of Masonic Fund Society
Orator of the Day
Bearers of Corn, Wine and Oil
Grand Secretary and Treasurer
Master of a Lodge, Bearing the Holy Writings,
Supported by Two Stewards with White Rods.
Grand Chaplain.

Past Grand Wardens
Past Deputy Grand Masters
Past Grand Masters
Grand Wardens
Deputy Grand Masters
Master of a Lodge Bearing the Book of Constitutions.

Grand Marshal James B. Boggs
Asst. Grand Marshal John P. Glass.
Asst. Grand Marshal Calvin Adams.
Asst. Grand Marshal George Lamb.

Grand Junior Deacon on the Left with a Black Rod.	(on a line) (five feet apart.)	Grand Senior Deacons on the Right with a Black Rod.

Grand Master
Grand Sword Bearer with a Drawn Sword
Two Stewards with White Rods.

The Procession will form about 11 o'clock, A. M., in the following order: From the Masonic Hall up 5th street to Smithfield—down Smithfield to Water—down Water to Wood—up Wood to Third—down Third to Market—along Market to St. Clair and Penn—up Penn to Hand—along Hand to Liberty—down Liberty to the Hall, where the address will be delivered in the Lodge Room.

The Citizens of Pittsburgh and vicinity are respectfully invited to attend.

By Order of the Committee of Arrangements.

J. W. Hailman,
S. McKinley,
James Shidle.

None of the minutes of the Masonic Fund Society's Board of Trustees give any information regarding the interesting ceremonies of the day; and therefore once more we revert to the columns of the "Morning Post," where is to be found this appreciative description, printed the day after the dedication:

Yesterday the Ancient and Honorable Craft of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons met for the purpose of dedicating the spacious Hall that has recently been erected in this City. At about 12 o'clock, the members to the number of almost 350, accompanied by the G. L., formed a procession on Fifth street, the left resting on Smithfield, and proceeded upon the line of march laid down in the printed programme. The streets through which the procession passed were crowded to excess with curious spectators—for there never has been witnessed a finer array of the Ancient Brotherhood than were assembled yesterday. The clothing of the members of the Grand Lodge (while all was chaste and beautiful) elicited the highest admiration from all; and the manly bearing of the members generally was one of the best pledges that could be offered that they are indeed most worthy members of the community.

The Dedicatory address (which was delivered by Dr. King, late of Westmoreland county), was a production reflecting high credit upon the refined feelings, truly religious principles and cultivated mind of its author. The brief time allotted for its preparation was more than sufficient excuse for anything that may have seemed deficient in it. It was highly satisfactory to the Craft in general; and

we heard no expression among the audience that was not favorable to the spirit of the address.

After night came, the Brotherhood partook of a bountiful and sumptuous repast, provided by Mr. Bennet, of the St. Clair hotel; whose reputation as a caterer for fastidious appetites is well known; and who lost none of his former fame by the splendid supper which he spread.

There is another interesting and appreciative account of the dedication to be found in the November, 1851, number of "The Temple," a Masonic magazine, published at that time at Carlisle, Pa. This account was sent from Pittsburgh and is signed with the initials "T. S." We copy the following from that communication:

The splendid furniture of the Hall was executed by the various cabinet manufacturers of the city; while the magnificent draperies and cushions which decorate the rooms, with the general upholstery, are from the establishment of Mr. Wm. Noble, on Third street. The elegant papering and bordering of the various rooms were put up by Mr. James Shidle, No. 50 Smithfield street, whose taste and skill in that line was never more fully displayed.

The ceremony of dedicating the Hall to the purposes of Masonry took place agreeably to the previous announcement, on Thursday morning, at 10 o'clock. The officers and members of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania—of whom there were quite a number in attendance—took the lead in conducting the dedicatory exercises, which were performed with the solemnities appropriate to the occasion.

At the conclusion of the dedication ceremonies the brethren formed into a line on Fifth and Smithfield streets, and accompanied by White's band, passed through several of the principal streets. The day was remarkably fine and beautiful—the sun shining with great warmth and brilliancy throughout the entire day. The brethren were all clothed in the plain lamb skin and sash of the Blue Lodge, presenting an exceedingly neat and handsome appearance, greatly in keeping with the simplicity of dress and manner which characterized the Craft of the olden time. In the evening at 6 o'clock, about three hundred of the fraternity sat down to a magnificent and bountifully spread table, set out in the grand concert room of the Hall. The supper was provided by C. W. Bennet, of the St. Clair hotel, who certainly surpassed himself on this occasion, by the variety, excellence and splendor of the repast with which his board was furnished.

After the removal of the cloth, toasts, speeches, songs and brilliant conversation engrossed all around the tables until a late hour, when the company separated to their homes. The visiting members will long remember the agreeable day and evening spent with their Pittsburg brethren.

And so, in the month of October, of the year 1851, one

of the high ambitions of the Masonic brethren in Pittsburgh was realized. Wisdom and Faith had guided their minds and held them steadfast to their purpose. They transformed their hopes into action, and their action into a noble reality. They had builded their own Masonic home, wherein the brethren of all the Bodies could labor in hearty unison for the advancement of Masonry as one of the glories of our civilization. It stood amidst the fast growing activities of a city which was to become a renowned center of modern progress. It was indeed a fine achievement and a visible realization of a splendid purpose. Our vast and imposing Masonic Temple of today, a beautiful ornament to the city of Pittsburgh, calls forth deserved tributes to the progress and the devotion of the Masons who brought about the erection of that edifice. Yet we may turn our grateful gaze back through the illuminating vista to the times of Hailman, of McKinley, of Layng, of Hoon, of Shaler, of Shidle, and of those other Masonic pioneers, and remembering the meagerness of their means, the numerical weakness of their Lodges, the ugly antagonism which bigotry still kept alive—remembering all these things, we can send our heartfelt thanks and gratitude back to the old days when those courageous Masons, supported by a loyal and enthusiastic brotherhood, provided, if not a Temple, at least a Hall, which was for the Masonic Bodies not only a home, but also an edifice emblematic of the strength, the stability and the pure aspirations which have brought the Craft in Pittsburgh to the prominence it so justly merits and to the influence it so graciously exerts.

CHAPTER III.

FINANCING AND FURNISHING NEW MASONIC HALL.

Various Loans Made During 1850-51—James Hailman's Greetings to Members of Board of Trustees—Manner of Obtaining First Subscriptions of Stock—Subscribers in Philadelphia, Cincinnati and Other Places—Brother McKinley's Financial Successes—Difficulties Overcome—James W. Hailman on the Board Secures Needed Money—Takes Mortgage of Masonic Property—Bills Paid and Dividend Declared—"Concert Hall" Becomes Noted Place of Entertainment—New Ruling as to Voting in Stockholders' Meetings—Grand Lodge Invests in Freemason Hall Stock and is later Paid Back in Full—Jenny Lind's Celebrated Concert in New Masonic Hall.

AT the conclusion of the interesting ceremonies of the laying of the corner stone of the new Masonic Hall on the Fourth of July, 1850, Brother James W. Hailman, then President of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society for Allegheny County, delivered an address, richly expressive of the joy and the gratitude that filled the hearts of the local fraternity. Directly addressing the brethren, he said:

Brethren of the Masonic Fund Society: Permit me to congratulate you upon the event which has just been consummated. The corner stone has been laid of a building which, when erected, will be dedicated to Truth, to Brotherly Love and to Charity. Well may you rejoice, my brethren, upon this occasion; well may you indulge in bright anticipations of the happy success of your undertaking. The Craft here and abroad have "strengthened your hands" in this good work, and ere long this great city will behold in its very midst a beautiful Temple, devoted to Masonry and Masonic love, in which is taught "Truth, unbroken and entire;" wherein is imparted a beautiful and wonderful system of instruction in the best principles of moral and social virtue. Brethren, you have come up here today to witness and to participate in the ceremonies of this occasion, and you have seen the implements of our Craft applied to this Corner Stone, to test its capability to receive the superstructure. You have beheld the symbols of Plenty, of Joy and of Consolation poured out upon it, and you have derived a lesson of wisdom and virtue therefrom.

Brethren of the Masonic Fraternity: I cannot let this occasion pass without calling to your remembrance by-gone days and the progress of Masonry in our city and District. But a few years ago many of you were witnesses of the trials and troubles and persecutions to

which the fraternity was exposed; when the cloud of adversity, dark with anger and scorn, hung gloomily over our beautiful Order, and when the pulpit and the press joined in their anathemas, and denounced the Order. Then indeed did the light grow dim, and shed but a feeble ray to illumine the darkness and gloom which lay around our brethren. Then did solitude and silence reign in our halls and set upon our altars. Yet, Masonry could not die. By the faithful energies of a few, who with hearts warmed by Masonic love still pursued the peaceful labors of the lodge, was this light rekindled, and its cheerful influences began to spread again from heart to heart, bringing into active exercise all the characteristic virtues of our Order.

That was a fine and just tribute to the Masons whose courage had never wavered and who had performed great labor without faltering. And when on a bright day in October, 1850, their new Hall was solemnly dedicated to its high uses, their satisfaction and joy were supreme. It is a fine thing to note, too, that nowhere in the records of the Board of Trustees do we find the faintest glimmer of doubt as to the ultimate success of their efforts. So that we find, as we resume here the thread of this narrative, following the minutes of the meetings, that all subsequent records show the same spirit of progress and persistency.

We shall here first revert to two sessions held just prior to the date of the dedication services. One of these was a meeting of stockholders held July 23, 1850, to fill two vacancies on the Board of Trustees, caused by the demise of Brother George W. Layng, whose death from cholera has been noted, and the resignation of Brother William Noble. By this election there came into the circle of the Board one of its most distinguished members, Brother Charles Shaler, eminent as a citizen and notable as a Mason. Twice he had already served as judge on the Bench of the Allegheny County Courts, and twice he had resigned therefrom after years of signal service. At the time of his election as a trustee he was back at the practice of law, having formed, in 1849, a partnership with Edwin M. Stanton, later the famous Secretary of War under President Lincoln. Brother Shaler was a past master of Lodge 45 and had been D. D. Grand Master of the Fifth Masonic District. The other new trustee chosen with him was Brother John D. Stewart, who however, served only until the following December.

The Board of Trustees being now again complete in numbers, attention was given to financial problems. It would be an unexpected and indeed a surprising thing, to find that the trustees had experienced no difficulty at all in securing prompt payments of all subscriptions of stock made prior to the date of the dedication of the Hall; and it was natural that they should have need of funds as the construction work went on. In fact, there were a good many delinquents, and the Trustees sent collectors after these tardy share holders. But the results of that action were not satisfactory, and the Board decided to borrow money, whenever they did not have enough and needed it the most. This was a contingency which they had foreseen from the start; and it may be properly noted here that at no time when they deemed it necessary to borrow funds did they encounter delay in securing the loans they required. Their first proceeding in the matter of these financial transactions is mentioned in the minutes of a meeting of the trustees held August 6, 1851, two months prior to the dedication of the building. The record reads:

> On motion made and seconded, resolved that the President and Brother Shidle be authorized to negotiate with Bros. Hoon & Sargent for a sufficient sum of money to pay the 1st installment on the Hall, due on the 8th inst.

At this meeting it was also decided that "20 per cent. of the capital stock, being the 5th installment, be called in immediately". Then at a session of October 3, six days before the dedication, the President, Brother Hailman, was "authorized to borrow the sum of three thousand dollars, on the bond or note given in the corporate name, at such time as may suit the parties." There are no records to show exactly what had been the aggregate of cash and subscriptions which had thus far come into the hands of the trustees. But it is to be kept in mind that considerable sums were received by the trustees as pure donations towards the expense of constructing the Hall; and naturally none of these voluntary contributions was carried along on the books as actual subscriptions. But the seven trustees who were guiding this Masonic enterprise were men conversant with business affairs, and they well knew that while gifts would be made,

the best and only way to raise the funds was to go out and look for them. This work of getting subscriptions had been, in fact, started with a vim even before the Masonic Fund Society was fully established. At a Convocation of the Pittsburgh brethren held January 1, 1848, of which mention has been made in a former chapter, plans for a subscription campaign were formed and put into operation. We have before us as we write the first Subscription Book of the Masonic Fund Society. It is nothing more than a little pocket note book, with leather back and twelve lines to a page. It contains a record of subscriptions received from Pittsburgh citizens, all Masons, secured during the months of January and February, 1848. The total number of subscribers noted therein is 496; and as the "shares of stock," as they were then designated, were held at a par value of $5.00, the total of the subscriptions was $2,480. It can be said that practically all these subscriptions were finally paid in. It was characteristic of the fairness and thoroughness of the men who had this matter in charge that they should put down in plain words the object and purposes of the subscriptions. Hence we find in this little volume this statement:

> We, the subscribers within named, hereby agree and promise to pay the several sums affixed to our names respectively, in order to raise a fund for the purchase of a lot of ground and the erection thereon of a Masonic Hall in the City of Pittsburgh in accordance with the Constitution adopted by a Convocation of Masons held at the lodge room January 1, 1848.
>
> Pittsburgh, Jan'y 1, 1848.

Nearly all the names of these first subscribers are representatives of the leading business, manufacturing and professional interests of that day. Running over the list in the order they are set down, we find the names, among others, of William B. English, John Birmingham, George W. Kuhn, Horatio N. Spear, Samuel McKinley, Samuel Eakin, James Shidle, J. R. Weldon, Joseph W. Spencer, William D. Wood, J. A. Blackmore, R. Biddle Roberts, Charles Shaler, A. L. Reed, John M. Scott, James Kerr, Jr., James Rhoads and George Armor.

When word got around to distant communities that the

Masons were about to erect a costly Masonic structure at Pittsburgh, great interest was aroused in the project. As a result, many subscriptions, and not a few donations, came from time to time from Brownsville, Cincinnati, Philadelphia and places throughout Western Pennsylvania. We have, for instance, an original letter of date of October 25, 1850, in the handwriting of Brother Samuel McKinley, who as Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society had written it to Brother Jacob Ernest, Esq., a resident of Cincinnati, Ohio. The Trustees had previously sent Brother Robert A. Bauseman, a member of Lodge 45, to that city to solicit subscriptions, and evidently he had been quite successful. However, not all the Cincinnati subscribers to the "Masonic Hall Fund" had been prompt in their payments of the amounts pledged, and Brother McKinley, by direction of the trustees, took action for the collection of the money. In his letter to Brother Ernest he expresses the hope that the latter will look after the matter in Cincinnati or else "employ a trusty brother to collect" the unpaid balances. In this letter there is a list of 23 names, the various amounts owed by them aggregating $852.70. With the letter were inclosed receipts to be given to those who might pay. The letter reads:

At the instance of R. A. Bauseman who visited your city and obtained the subscriptions some months ago, we take the liberty of forwarding to you the above list, and trust you will devote a portion of your time to their collection. As they are paid, please deposit the amounts, (less a reasonable percentage for your trouble) with P. Outcult & Co., for the credit and advice of Hoon & Sargent, of this city.

N. B. Or employ a trusty brother to collect, if you have not time to spare.

These subscriptions had been obtained in pursuance of a plan adopted by the trustees to gather funds wherever available, as set forth in the minutes of a meeting held April 13, 1850, as follows:

Resolved, that a person be employed to solicit subscriptions for stock and collect moneys due already subscribed, which solicitor shall be authorized to visit Cincinnati, Brownsville and other places, as may be deemed advisable.

At a subsequent session, May 7, 1850, the President of the Board of Trustees was empowered to employ a "solici-

tor," and he was also authorized "to draw his warrant for a sufficient amount on the Treasurer to defray traveling expenses." Aside from the name of Richard Bauseman, who was sent, as we have seen, to Cincinnati, the records do not show who else were employed as solicitors. But in the year 1851 Brother McKinley himself journeyed to Cincinnati, and seems also to have gone to Brownsville and other Western Pennsylvania places for the same purpose. It was in Philadelphia, however, that was harvested the first big crop of subscriptions, outside of Allegheny county. One reason for the success there was that journeys were being frequently made to that city by Pittsburg Masons, who seized each opportunity to labor zealously in behalf of their Pittsburgh enterprise. On various occasions Brothers Hailman, McKinley, Hoon and others were particularly successful in that work in the city on the Delaware. In the minutes of a session of the Trustees, held January 7, 1851, we find this encouraging report made by the secretary, Brother McKinley:

> The Secretary's report of stock sold in Philadelphia: Amt., Eighteen hundred & fifteen dollars, paid into hands of treasurer, accepted, and requested to place the fact of the same on the Minutes.

Another and later record shows that the treasurer was directed to pay the travelling expenses of the secretary "to the city of Philadelphia, amounting to $66.25".

The year 1851 proved to be a period of important developments and labors for the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society. Not only had they achieved the great triumph of practically completing and dedicating their Hall, but they had to evolve plans for tiding over coming financial contingencies and give elaborate attention to the management of the new building. The narrative of the twelve months of 1851 is given additional interest by the various changes in the membership of the Board. Brother William B. English, of Franklin Lodge, No. 221, had been elected in December, 1850, to succeed Brother John D. Stewart, and the membership at the beginning of 1851 was as follows: Hailman, President; Hoon, Treasurer; McKinley, Secretary; and Shaler, Shidle, McCammon and English. They found financial conditions not any too promising at the beginning of 1851. Payments of subscriptions were not being made

with sufficient promptness, and the number of delinquent share holders had increased to such an extent that it was decided by the Board "to place the accounts in the hands of the alderman for collection." This action, however, was not taken. It was seen that a considerable amount of money was required at once. They decided to arrange for loans that would bring in sufficient cash as needed. This interesting transaction is set down rather irregularly and with disconnected details by Secretary McKinley; but it embraced a proposition evidently suggested and certainly agreed to by Brother Hailman. The plan proposed was to the effect that Mr. Hailman should assume the responsibility for the payment of the existing indebtedness and certain future loans, and that, "to save harmless and indemnify" him for "all and every liability," a mortgage "of all of the real estate and property belonging to the said Masonic Fund Society" should be executed by the proper officers to the said James W. Hailman. It is apparent by the records that the indebtedness had reached the extent of $7,000, an amount not at all surprising, however, when it is remembered that the total cost of the land and building was well on to $40,000, and that a good deal of that sum had already been paid. To carry out this transaction, which of course met with the full approbation of the trustees, a meeting of the Board was held April 21, 1851, although, as is evident, all the details had been settled previously. The arrangement was completed in the manner shown by the following record left by Secretary McKinley of the April 21 session.

Whereas, James W. Hailman, of the City of Pittsburgh, has become bound to several persons for and on account of divers sums of money advanced to and for the use of the Masonic Fund Society for the county of Allegheny, amounting in the whole to the sum of seven thousand dollars; and,

Whereas, it has become necessary for the said Corporation to raise other sums of money for the completion and furnishing of the Masonic Hall now in the course of erection in the City of Pittsburgh, on the lots hereafter mentioned, which said last sums of money mentioned the said James W. Hailman proposes to raise on his own responsibility, or by pledging the Real Estate and Resources of the said Corporation for the same; and,

Whereas, at a meeting held on the 21st day of April, A. D., 1851, at which Charles Shaler was appointed Chairman pro tem., in the absence of James W. Hailman, President of the Board of Trustees of the said Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny, the following Resolutions were passed, viz.:

Resolved, That for the purpose of discharging the liabilities already incurred by James W. Hailman, for and on account of the Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny, and of saving harmless and indemnifying the said James W. Hailman for and on account of all liabilities and responsibilities heretofore incurred, or that hereafter may be assumed by the said James W. Hailman on account of the said Masonic Fund Society, and of raising such further sums of money, either through the personal responsibility of the said James W. Hailman, or by pledging the Real Estate and Resources of said Corporation, may appear most prudent, as may be deemed necessary to meet the present emergencies of the said Corporation: A bond be duly executed by the Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny, under the seal of the said Corporation, to the said James W. Hailman in the penalty of Fourteen Thousand Dollars, or to repay to him all monies he may have heretofore, or may hereafter advance to the said Corporation, and to save harmless and indemnify the said James W. Hailman for all and every liability or responsibility of any and every kind he may have incurred, or may hereafter incur, for or on account of the said Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny.

Resolved, That in order to insure the discharge of the said Bond, and further to indemnify and secure the said James W. Hailman against the liabilities intended to be indemnified against by the said Bond and its conditions, that a Mortgage of all the Real Estate, the property of or belonging to the said Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny, situate in the City of Pittsburgh, be executed by the proper officers of the said Society, under the seal of the said Corporation, to the said James W. Hailman, his heirs and assigns.

Resolved, That Charles Shaler, President pro tem., of the Board of Trustees of the said Corporation, execute the said Mortgage under the Corporate (seal) of the said Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny, and that Samuel McKinley, Secretary of the said Society, countersign the same.

The mortgage and bond embodying the above stipulations carried a clause by which for an additional consideration of $1, the ground and new Hall, owned by the Masonic Fund Society in Pittsburgh were "granted, bargained, sold," etc., to Brother Hailman. The mortgage is dated April 23, 1851, and was recorded in the office of the Recorder of Deeds for Allegheny county on May 6 of the same year. An interesting detail of this transaction, as shown by the rec-

ord, is that the document was "sealed and delivered in the presence" of Edwin M. Stanton, who ten years later was to achieve world-wide fame as President Lincoln's Secretary of War. He was at the date of the Hailman mortgage practicing law in Pittsburgh, being then in partnership with Brother Charles Shaler. It was of course, under the direction of these two noted lawyers that this affair was carried through. The alderman before whom the documents were executed was Brother Alexander G. Reinhart, who later became one of the trustees of the Masonic Fund Society.

This transaction was of the utmost importance to not only the Board of Trustees, but also to the local Fraternity in general, since it released them from the annoying pressure of existing financial obligations, but what was still more satisfactory, it removed, for a time at least, the difficulties of obtaining further loans. It was an exceedingly helpful act on the part of Brother Hailman. He was an able financier who could see ahead, and his confidence in the ultimate success of the undertaking of the Board of Trustees was amply justified. Within four years all the obligations covered by the mortgage were repaid, and Brother Hailman entered the words, "satisfaction in full," on the record of the mortgage in the Allegheny County Court House, on May 11, 1855.

We have in the preceding chapter given attention to the proceedings of the meetings of the Board of Trustees up to and including the formal and imposing dedication of the new Hall on October 9, 1851. We shall here resume the consideration of subsequent records, as they present matters of particular interest and importance. We find in the minutes of October 23 of that year details concerning the payment of sundry bills, aggregating $2,670.76. There was a bill for carpets for the hall amounting to $570.64; another for furniture of $875.50, and $562.75 was paid to the "Cabinet Makers Association."

We come now to a record of a meeting held November 6, 1851, which displays the foresight of the trustees. They declared a dividend of 6 per cent. on the stock issued, which dividend was to be paid in the form of stock, to all holders outside of Philadelphia. The holders in that city were to

be paid in cash. The transaction is noted on the minutes as follows: "On motion, a dividend of 6 per ct. on all the stock be declared, payable in stock; except Philadelphia, which is to be paid in cash." To pay dividends in stock involved, of course, no additional financial outlay, and the brethren in Allegheny county were quite willing to accept the arrangement. But there was a particularly sound reason for making an exception in favor of the Philadelphia subscribers. Naturally the brethren there would not have the same deep personal concern in the erection of a Masonic Hall in the distant city of Pittsburgh as would the Western Pennsylvania members of the Order; and doubtless it was argued that if the Eastern investors could expect dividends in the form of cash, subscriptions from that part of the State would come in a good deal faster. Philadelphia had already proved to be a good field for the disposal of stock. None of the Pittsburgh brethren who journeyed in those days to the banks of the Delaware seemed to have returned without additional subscriptions.

By November, 1851, a small revenue was coming in from rentals. Store tenants were occupying parts of the new structure, and the "Concert room," so notable later as a place of worthy entertainments, was ready for use. Advertisements had been inserted not only in the local newspapers but also in New York city newspapers, calling attention to the desirability of the hall for public lectures, and proper theatrical entertainments. In the meantime, persistent attention was being given to the collection of unpaid subscriptions and securing new ones. In the minutes of a meeting held December 12, 1851, we read that, "on motion, Brother McKinley was authorized to visit Cincinnati to collect unpaid stock, and sell new stock to the amt. of one thousand dollars, thirty dollars being appropriated for that purpose." This $30 was of course to pay the brother's travelling expenses, and when Secretary McKinley returned from that trip to the Ohio city he was able to report that he had disposed of about $900 worth of stock.

Secretary McKinley's minutes for the year 1851 close with the records of the annual meeting of stockholders December 27 and a session of the Board of Trustees, convened

for the election of officers for the coming year. At this stockholders' gathering an important ruling relative to the manner of voting for trustees was made by Brother Hailman, who presided. At that time and for many years afterward, until a change was officially made, the Charter of the Society provided that "each member shall be entitled to one vote, and no vote of proxy shall be received." It seems to have become the practice in lodges at that period to designate one or more of their members, irrespective of their station in the lodge, to vote for trustees at stockholders' meetings. Indeed, there appear to have been elections for trustees at which votes were cast by representatives of lodges who were not lodge officers at all. This irregular practice appears to have caused dissentions at some sessions of the stockholders, and the opinion finally gained ground among the brethren that it was not truly expressive of the highest authority of a lodge. The ruling made at the December 27, 1851, meeting by Brother Hailman invested only the highest officers of a lodge with the right to cast ballots for trustees at the meetings of the stockholders. This ruling is set forth in the minutes as follows:

> The President decided, on the inquiry of the Secretary, that the highest officers only could vote as the representatives of the stock held by the different bodies of Masons.

Later on this ruling was frequently disregarded and the manner of voting was finally definitely adjusted and settled by an amendment to the charter.

At this annual meeting of the stockholders, December 27, 1851, Brother Alexander Speer was chosen a member of the Board of Trustees, displacing Brother McCammon, a charter member of the Masonic Fund Society. Brother Speer, the new trustee, was at this date, as he continued to be throughout his life, a leading and highly respected citizen. He was prominent in manufacturing circles, being the owner, with Samuel Hall, of the Globe Plow Works. He was a member of St. John's Lodge, No. 219.

Two especially important events connected with the Masonic Fund Society signalized the year 1851, and it is a curious thing that nowhere in Secretary McKinley's records of the Society is there a single reference to them. One of

these events was the official investment by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania of funds in the Pittsburgh Masonic Hall stock. The other was the historic concert given in the hall of the new Masonic building by the famous songstress, Jennie Lind, with the celebrated P. T. Barnum personally directing the affair. Not being in any way a Masonic affair, it might not be a matter of surprise that Brother McKinley should have deemed this event of not sufficient importance to put in his records. But it is not so easy to account for the omission from the records of the Grand Lodge's timely and effective recognition of the big task the Pittsburgh brethren were carrying through. However, there is a record in the old ledger books of the Masonic Fund Society; but most of the information on the subject is found in the minutes of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge itself. It may be safely asserted that from the very start of their plan to build a Hall the brethren at Pittsburgh counted on getting recognition if not financial aid from the Grand Body. In 1850 Brother Samuel McKinley was D. D. Grand Master and it is evident that he took the matter up at the earliest opportunity with the R. W. Grand Master and the Grand Officers in Philadelphia. His labors in that direction did not go unrewarded, and later they were ably supplemented by the effective work of Brother James W. Hailman. We have however, no record of Brother McKinley's efforts to get the Grand Lodge interested in the Pittsburgh undertaking until we reach the minutes of the Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge held December 27, 1850, when there comes into view not only evidence of his activities, but also solid proof of his success. He had supplemented his personal visits to the R. W. Grand Master by a communication to the Grand Lodge, and as a result that Body made a purchase of 200 shares of stock in the Masonic Hall Fund, as is shown by the following record from the minutes of the Grand Communication of December, 1850:

A communication was read from Bro. Samuel McKinley, D. D. G. Master, soliciting this Grand Lodge to subscribe for shares in the Masonic Building Fund Society of Pittsburg. When the following resolution was adopted, to-wit:

Resolved, that the trustees of the Sinking Fund be directed to

subscribe for two hundred shares (amounting to one thousand dollars), Pittsburg Masonic Fund Society and that the R. W. G. Master be requested to draw his warrant on the Grand Treasurer for said amount.

Of course, Brother McKinley's work had been strongly backed up by other Pittsburg Masons; but he had brought about a big achievement, for this practical endorsement by the Grand Lodge brought additional prominence to the work in Pittsburgh, and the effect was almost immediately noticeable in the increase of the Philadelphia subscriptions. Then at the end of the year 1851 Brother Hailman carried to a successful close another campaign in Grand Lodge circles. He had supplemented his personal efforts by letters to the Grand Master, and exactly a year after Brother McKinley's success, we find the work of Brother Hailman bearing fruit. He sent to R. W. Grand Master Whitney a letter, which is included in the records of the proceedings of a Grand Quarterly Communication of March 1, 1852, as follows:

The following communication was read and the accompanying printed report is filed in the archives.

Pittsburgh, Dec. 22d, 1851.

R. W. Wm. Whitney, Esq., G. M.

Dear Sir and Bro., Permit me to enclose you my report to the stockholders of the Masonic Fund Society.

You will perceive that the Society is in a very fair condition, but owing to a very large portion of its debt being now due and pressing, it becomes necessary that further sales of stock be made. I have addressed Bro. Adams as G. Secty., inclosing a copy with request to lay it before the R. W. G. Lodge and solicit a further subscription upon the part of the Gr. Lodge to the stock of our society. I trust and sincerely hope you will give it your countenance and support. You can speak knowingly in regard to the hall, having seen it. It certainly will yield a fair return on the investment. Our brethren here have done much, and will do more, and I trust the R. W. Gr. Lodge will deem it proper to consider the subject of a further subscription worthy of being made. Should Bro. Adams, in the multiplicity of business overlook this matter, I beg that you will do me the favor to bring it to the notice of the R. W. Gr. Lodge.

Truly and fraternally,

Jas. W. Hailman,

(Signed) Prest.

The Grand Lodge took favorable action at the same ses-

sion at which this communication was read, by adopting the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Trustees of the Sinking Fund be authorized to invest one thousand dollars in the stock of the Pittsburgh Masonic Fund Society.

As these were the only financial transactions carried on between the Grand Lodge and the Masonic Fund Society relative to the erection of the first Masonic Hall in Pittsburgh, we shall give here a recital of the final disposal of the matter fifteen years later. These transactions were carried along in the annual statements of the finances of the Grand Lodge under two distinct designations. The investment made upon the request of Brother McKinley was noted as a purchase of stock to the amount of $1,000. The investment resulting from Brother Hailman's efforts was carried on the Grand Lodge ledger as a loan. In the Grand Lodge's financial statement for the year 1860, for instance, we find these separate notations:

Certificate No. 419, Pittsburg Masonic Fund Society,	Stock..	$1050.00
" " " "	Loan....	500.00
" " " "	Loan....	500.00

The $50 included in the above item of "stock" is explained by the wording of the following statement taken from the Grand Lodge proceedings December 28, 1857:

The Trustees of the Masonic Loan reported that during the past year, $11,700 of the Loans of the Grand Lodge had been purchased at a cost of $11,159, being a gain of $541. And that they also have in their hands certificates of Pittsburgh Masonic Loan amounting to $2,050 (which certificates came into their possession while negotiating the Loan), which they are anxious the Grand Lodge would authorize them to transfer to the Grand Lodge Charity Fund, and for this purpose offer the following resolution:

"Resolved, that the $2,000 held by this Grand Lodge in the Pittsburgh Masonic Fund Society, and also $50 of the same fund received by this Grand Lodge in part payment by Lodge No. 91 of a subscription to the New Masonic Loan, making in all $2050, be and the same is hereby transferred to the Trustees of the Grand Lodge Charity Fund in part payment of the annual subscription of this Grand Lodge to said Charity Fund for the incoming year.

Lodge No. 91 mentioned in the above minutes was old Columbia Lodge of Philadelphia, and it is evident from the resolution quoted that that lodge had transferred to the Grand Lodge a $50 Pittsburgh subscription to be invested in

a new loan then being made by the Grand Lodge. In accordance with the directions in the above resolution, the transfer of the Pittsburgh investments to the Grand Lodge Charity Fund was made, as shown by the following record from the minutes of the Grand Lodge, December 2, 1861:

> The sum of $2,050 of the Stock and Loan of the Pittsburgh Masonic Fund Society having been transferred by the G. L., to the Grand L. Charity Fund, due credit has been given to the G. L. for that amount.

Through the long period of fifteen years during which the Grand Lodge held this stock and loan of over $2,000 the dividends on the stock and the interest on the loan were regularly paid in cash by the Masonic Fund Society, as the records of the Grand Lodge show. And at last after that period of fifteen years, we reach the records of the final, complete and legal termination of these transactions of 1850 and 1851 in the following words from the Financial Statement of the Grand Lodge, presented, read and accepted at an Extra Quarterly Grand Communication held December 18, 1865:

> During the year the Trustees of the Masonic Loan redeemed $1,000 of the Masonic Loan held by this Fund, and the Brethren of Pittsburgh paid off their loan, amounting to $2,050, all of which was immediately reinvested, as shown by the accounts.

This report from which the above record of the payment of the Pittsburgh payment is taken is signed by Brothers Robert Clark, John C. Yeager and Francis Blackburne, the Grand Lodge Committee on Finance for the year 1865.

Let us turn now to that other notable event of 1851 connected with the new Masonic Hall in Pittsburgh. This was the appearance of Jenny Lind in the "Concert room" of the Hall on the evening of April 25, 1851. It was the first public entertainment given in the structure. It turned out to be a rather tumultuous affair and has become historic in the annals of the city of Pittsburgh. The Swedish songstres was at the time creating a furore throughout the United States. She had come to this country under contract with Mr. Barnum and that prince of popular amusements was losing no opportunity of letting the American people know that Jenny Lind was in their midst. As a consequence,

all Pittsburgh, and for that matter all Western Pennsylvania, was eager to hear her sing. Negotiations began early in the year 1851 for her appearance in Pittsburgh. Almost every day the local newspapers had something to say on the engrossing subject. Mr. John H. Mellor, the well known wholesale and retail music dealer, took the matter in hand. He communicated with Mr. Barnum, and in answer a telegram was received from that gentleman, then in New Orleans, dated February 10, saying that "if there is a room in your city sufficiently large to give encouragement enough for us to give a concert, we shall be there about the last of March." The burning question then was, Where is there such a hall? The Pittsburgh "Morning Post" printed Mr. Barnum's dispatch, and with wise forethought answered the question, by adding: "The Masonic Hall would be the very place, it being large and commodious, and we sincerely hope that they may have it finished in time." This suggestion met with general approval. But in fact, the Concert room was not ready, and there was still much to be done in the way of completing both the exterior and interior of the whole structure. The big windows were without frame or glass, the Concert room was bare and the walls were not plastered. Nevertheless, it was determined that Jenny Lind should sing in that hall. Thereupon the seven trustees of the Masonic Fund Society, aided by the vociferous encouragement and suggestions of the entire population, set to work to get things in shape. Word was sent to Mr. Barnum that of course Pittsburgh had a big enough hall for his concert. The whole city became interested, and the newspapers gave the matter absorbing attention, issuing almost daily bulletins recording the progress of the work on the Masonic building, where workmen were frantically fixing up the Concert room, erecting a stage, putting in benches. Following is an encouraging report from a local newspaper of date of March 3:

> Masonic Hall—The workmen are very busily engaged in finishing this magnificent Hall for Jenny Lind's concerts. The trustees, we understand, have held a meeting, and resolved that no efforts shall be spared to have the building completed at the earliest possible day.

A few days later came this:

The magnificent concert room in the new Masonic Hall, we are informed by one of the Trustees, will be furnished before the 1st of May, and it will be ready for concerts by that time. It will be altogether one of the most brilliant and beautiful halls in the United States.

A week later appeared the following:

Masonic Hall, the largest and most elegant room in the city, is being cleaned out and properly fitted up for Jenny Lind to sing in. They were yesterday putting in the gas pipes.

Mr. Mellor arranged with Mr. Barnum for two concerts, the first to be given April 25 and the second on the following evening. Jenny Lind and her troupe, headed by the great Barnum himself, arrived on April 23, having travelled from Cincinnati. The advertisements in the newspapers were worded in the true Barnum style, and in them this information was made public:

To prevent purchasers from being incommoded by lookerson, the usual charge of 10 cents will be made for admission to the auction, the entire proceeds of which will be handed to His Honor, the Mayor, to be devoted to charitable purposes. The price of admission has been fixed at $5. The choice of seats will be disposed of at auction on Friday morning at 10 o'clock at Masonic Hall."

The desire to hear the songstress had become almost a national passion, and the demand for admission to the concerts was enormous everywhere. Tremendous interest was aroused over the coming Pittsburgh concerts, not only in the city, but for a radius of a hundred miles. Thousands of people came into the city, and the auction sale of tickets was a tumultuous affair. Prices of $25 were paid for the little pieces of card board, and the house was "sold out" in a short time. Accommodations had been made to seat 1,450 people in the hall, but before the doors opened five thousand mortals were struggling to get to the entrance. The crush was tremendous, and the rough element in the crowd got rather noisy and unruly. Many more people were outside than inside of the Concert room when the programme was started, and it was quite impossible for the small police force to keep them in good order. There was a great deal of uproar around the outside of the building, and Jenny Lind got scared. She did not sing at her best, and neither did the rest of the company. When the concert had ended, Jenny was in a state of extreme nervousness, and although her ap-

prehensions were groundless, she refused to leave the hall by the regular exit, and was finally taken out through one of the windows and escorted to the Monongahela Hotel where the troupe were quartered. The receipts from the performance amounted to a total of $8,025, and after paying the expenses incurred, Mr. Barnum, true to his promise, handed all the remainder, over $7,000, to the mayor of Pittsburgh to be used for charitable purposes. But there was no second concert. Jenny Lind refused tearfully, but firmly, to sing in Pittsburgh again, and on the following day she and her companions departed for Brownsville. Sensational and wholly untruthful reports of the occurrence were spread all over the country, and according to those wild stories, Miss Lind had been mobbed and was on the verge of being ruthlessly slaughtered. As a matter of fact, the crowd outside was noisy because it was disappointed at not being able to hear the singer, but there was no mob outbreak at all. The day after the concert Mr. Barnum printed a card in the local newspapers in which he said:

> The public is respectfully informed that the noise and confusion occasioned by the immense crowd outside the Masonic Hall last night so unnerved M'lle Lind that all entreaties and assurances from His Honor the Mayor and myself were unavailing to induce her to give another concert this evening. She would have been pleased to do so, had not the tumult on the roofs of the building adjacent to her retiring room, (although I am confident no harm was intended by the outsiders), thrown her into a state of excitement which she could not control.

CHAPTER IV.

MASONIC HALL TOTALLY DESTROYED BY FIRE.

Masonic Bodies Occupied Hall First in 1851-2—Scottish Rite in Valley of Pittsburgh Established in Hall—More Subscription Stock Sold —Dividends Declared—New Members on Board of Trustees—Improvements in Hall Made—Rents Agreed Upon—Notable Entertainments in Concert Room—Sales of Stock Cease—Deaths of Brothers Samuel McKinley and Alexander G. Reinhart—Churches and Mercantile Associations Occupy Hall—James Herdman on Board of Trustees—Stock Selling Resumed—State of Finances—Changes in Board—First Minutes of Stockholders' Meeting—Days of Civil War—Movement for New Masonic Hall Started—$30,000 of Stock Outstanding in 1869—Death of Thomas Davage—Extensive Improvements in Hall Proposed—Masonic Building Totally Destroyed by Fire August 12, 1887.

THE Masonic Fund Society entered the year 1852 with fine prospects, which however, wavered throughout the twelve months. For the time being at least the question of finances was not pressing. The new building was finished, was occupied by the brethren and was fast being entirely fitted up and furnished in the interior. The brethren who constituted the Board of Trustees at the beginning of the year were: President, James W. Hailman; Treasurer, James S. Hoon; Secretary, Samuel McKinley, and Brothers Shaler, Shidle, Speer and English. By the month of June, 1852, all the Masonic Bodies then in existence in the city of Pittsburgh were occupying the new edifice. The Bodies and the dates of the meetings were as follows:

Lodge 45, meeting the second Tuesday of each month; St. John's lodge, No. 219, second Thursday of each month; Franklin Lodge, No. 221, first and third Thursday of each month; Washington Lodge, No. 253, last Tuesday of each month; Solomon's Lodge, No. 231, first and third Friday of each month; Gourgas Council, No. 1, of Pennsylvania, Princes of Jerusalem, second Tuesday of each month; Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162, first Tuesday of each month; Mt. Moriah Council, No. 2, third Wednesday of each month. Allegheny Lodge, No. 223, met in their hall in the old city of Allegheny.

So far as the minutes show, the meetings of the Masonic Fund Society through the year 1852 were mostly of a routine character. To gather up sufficient funds, to complete the furnishing of the new building, to arrange for rentals were the chief matters that came before the trustees. As yet the income from store and lodge rentals was scarcely ample to defray the running expenses, but the expenses were being met and also the cost of further necessary work on the building. At a session of the Trustees held February 3, 1852, it was "resolved, that each Lodge be charged $2 per night for gas light;" and another entry of the minutes of the same meeting is of especial importance, as follows: "On motion made and seconded, resolved that, the Lodge of Perfection have the hall at a rent of $60 per annum, and the privilege be granted as contained in the petition of their Committee." Just what this privilege was is not on record. It was in this year that the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite was established in the Valley of Pittsburgh, and as a matter of historic detail it is proper to mention here that it was in the new Masonic Hall that the first meeting of Gourgas Lodge of Perfection was held there in June, 1852. Brother James W. Hailman was the first presiding officer, having been elected Thrice Potent Grand Master in that month, and he continued in that office until 1857. He was succeeded by Brother James S. Hoon, another Masonic Fund Trustee, who was first elected February 4, 1857, and served until his death in 1859. He was followed in the office of T. P. G. M. by Brother Dr. Alexander M. Pollock, who was at the time a member of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society. The meetings of Gourgas Lodge of Perfection were held in the Masonic Hall until the year 1872, when apartments were leased in the building known as Library Hall on Penn avenue near Federal street. The reason for this removal was that the growth of the Scottish Rite Bodies had got beyond the limits available in the Masonic edifice on Fifth avenue.

The work of disposing of additional stock in the new building was kept up indefatigably by the Trustees. One of the entries of the minutes of a meeting of the Board held February 3 is to the effect that "the Sec. be allowed

one hundred & five dollars commission on stock collected to settlement of 1850, payable in stock." In March of 1852 Brother McKinley, who was still D. D. Grand Master, made another trip to Philadelphia to secure subscriptions. The result of his journey is shown by the following entry in the minutes of a session held April 6:

Bill of expenses of Sec. to Philadelphia, $44.65. Ordered to be paid. The Sec. reports stock sold during his stay in Philadelphia, six hundred & forty-five dollars—$645.

At a meeting May 4 provision was made to pay a semi-annual dividend of six per cent. per annum, as follows:

Resolved, that a dividend at the rate of 6 pr. ct. pr. annum be paid upon all stock fully paid from the date of said full payment until the 1st Monday of May, and amt. thus accruing be placed to the credit of each stockholder. Payable in the stock of said Society; this resolution not to apply to the stockholders in the city of Philadelphia.

The Philadelphia holders of stock were paid their dividends in cash, a plan adopted at the start, as has been shown. At a meeting on May 11 it was "Resolved that 3 per cent. on all stock fully paid, be declared payable in stock to 1st of May inclusive." The last meeting of the Trustees in the year 1852 was held December 27, and the record of the session is of special interest, as being the final work of Brother McKinley as Secretary of the Board, a position he had held since its formation. At the close of 1852 he resigned, not only as secretary but also as a member of the Board of Trustees. He was not, therefore, on the Board during the year 1853. In December, 1852, the stockholders met to elect Trustees, but there are no records obtainable of this session, nor have there been left on record any intimation why Brother McKinley was not re-elected. But whatever the reasons may have been, they had no lasting effect, as he was, as we shall find, again a Trustee a year later and continued to serve until his death. The last meeting of the Board for 1852 was thus recorded:

Special meeting of Trustees of Masonic Fund Society; met at the Hall, 5th street, Pitts., Monday, 27 December, 1852. Prest.: J. W. Hailman, James Shidle, Charles Shaler, J. S. Hoon & S. McKinley.

On motion, Resolved that the stage in the concert room be raised 12 inches, and that Bro. Shidle be requested to carry the same into effect.

On motion, resolved that the President be directed to have more light put into the concert room.

On motion, adjourned. S. McKinley.

When the Board of Trustees held their first session in the year 1853—to which period we have now reached—there was a noticeable change in the membership. This meeting was convened January 3, and not only was Brother McKinley out of the Board, but the kindly face of Brother Charles Shaler was also missing. He had refused re-election as a trustee by reason of a press of professional business. But notwithstanding he was not a member of the Board, there is ample evidence to show that he kept in close touch with its affairs, and his advice and aid were often sought and always eagerly given. Brother McKinley was succeeded as secretary of the Board of Trustees by Brother Alexander G. Reinhart, who had been chosen a member of the Board at the stockholders' meeting in December, 1852. He was a well known citizen of Pittsburgh and at this period was an alderman, having an office in the Exchange building on St. Clair, now Federal street. He was a member of St. John's Lodge, No. 219. Thus the membership of the Board for 1853 included these Masons: Hailman, Hoon, Shidle, English, Charles O. Loomis, Alexander Tindle and Alexander Reinhart. Brother Tindle was a member of St. John's Lodge, No. 219 and a prominent merchant. Brother Loomis was a leading attorney, with an office on Fourth street and he belonged to Franklin Lodge, No. 221.

The minutes of the meetings of the trustees during 1853 reveal that the brethren devoted their attention to getting as much revenue as possible out of their new building. They felt sure of the future, and by the middle of the year ceased selling any more stock. The first minutes recorded by the new secretary, Brother Reinhart, were those of January 3, when James S. Hailman was again chosen President and James S. Hoon Treasurer. Improvements in the new Hall claimed the attention of the Board. The "concert room", which was now producing an increasing revenue, was a matter of special concern. Entertainments and public lectures were being given there, and President Hailman was "authorized by the Board to confer with Messrs. Kleber &

Mellor in relation to allowing them a certain commission for procuring patronage to the concert room." Mr. John H. Mellor and Mr. Henry Kleber were then the leading music and musical instrument dealers in the city and during a number of years they continued to interest themselves in bringing worthy popular entertainments and lectures to Masonic Hall. At this time a new departure was made. Because of a lack of space in any of their past Masonic halls it had always been necessary to have recourse to the taverns whenever any of the Masonic Bodies desired to hold a banquet. It was decided in 1853 by the trustees to provide space and arrangements for these events in the new building. In pursuance of this plan a resolution was adopted to "alter the lower rooms of the building so as to provide a supper room and kitchen at the back end, estimating the cost at about $150." At the meeting at which this action was taken, January 4, 1853, the president reported that an insurance of $15,000 had been placed on the building and $3,000 on the furniture. It was also agreed to rent the concert room to the Mercantile Association, an organization of well known citizens, "for $20 a night, at such times as will not interfere with more profitable arrangements." Another record of this January 4 session reads:

> On motion, the Secretary was instructed to notify the several lodges, Chapter and Encampment, that from & after the 1st day of April next $25 per annum will be added to their rent, each. Except the Lodge of Perfection, which is to pay $10 additional, to cover the expense of Gas, Fuel, Water, etc."

Of course, at all times at this period money was needed. Rather expensive additions and changes were being made in the new structure, the Philadelphia shareholders had to be paid their dividends in cash and the interest on loans already made had to be, as they were, regularly met. So it is not surprising to read in the minutes of a meeting of the trustees, April 5, that "J. W. Hailman reported that he had borrowed the sum of $2,000 on his own obligation, at 7 per cent., and applied it to the payment of the 12 per cent. loan. On motion, the Board approved of the transaction and assumes payment of said obligation of J. W. Hailman." To borrow money at 7 per cent. to pay off a debt that was

charged with 12 per cent. was certainly good financiering, and on more than one occasion later Brother Hailman in like manner lessened the burdens of the Society.

It had been the practice of the Trustees from the time the Philadelphia stock subscriptions had reached important proportions to appoint a brother of that city, who was designated as "agent," to take charge of the payments of the dividends and receive subscriptions. For more than a year past the Grand Treasurer, Brother John Thompson, had acted in that capacity. At a meeting of the Board, May 3, 1853, a communication was received from him asking to be "relieved from the agency." Later another Philadelphia Mason replaced him. At this same meeting a semi-annual dividend of 3 per cent was declared "for the last six months on all stock issued, payable in cash to Philadelphia stockholders, and in stock to home stockholders, and that the secretary forward money for that purpose to the agent in Philadelphia who may be designated by Bro. Jas. S. Hoon, to pay over the same." The Masonic Fund Society had now reached the point where the Trustees deemed it proper, according to the provision in the charter, to discontinue the further sale of stock, and we therefore find the following entry in the record of a meeting held July 5, 1853:

On motion, resolved that St. John's Lodge, No. 219, be permitted to subscribe for One Hundred Shares (additional) of Stock in Hall, after which all further sales of said stock to cease.

As far as has been discovered, none of the early reports of the treasurer of the Society have been preserved, so that we are unable to know the exact financial standing of the Society at this date. But there is in the minutes of a trustees' meeting held August 2, 1853, an important record which throws some light on this subject. It reads:

The following report was submitted by the Secretary, & on motion, accepted & adopted, viz:

To Cash rec'd for Concert Room	$1298.99
" " " " Rents	1018.75
" " " " Stock	149.00
———CR.———	
By Amt allowed Morrison for chairs	$ .50
" " Paid postage on letters for Thompson	.03
" " allowed Riddle for gas pipes	2.60

"	"	paid Dividend to Chapter No. 3	16.40
"	"	Counterfeit money rec'd of Cooper	11.00
"	"	Paid Treasurer Hoon	2427.21
			$2,457.74

Additional information on the finances at this time is given in the minutes of a meeting of the Board, September 6, in the following words:

Bro. Hoon, Tr. (Treasurer) reported $6,215.08 rec'd, (included in which was $3165 from proceeds of notes, etc., not accruing from the revenue of the Hall.) He also reported $6027.29 disbursed, leaving a bal. in Tr'y of $187.78.

This entry cannot be considered as showing an especially brilliant financial standing, but it was altogether encouraging. It is to be remembered that only a few months had elapsed since the rental parts of the new building were occupied, that the "Concert room" had only begun to be frequently rented, that some of the lodges were already delinquent in rent payments, that extensive changes had been made in and about the new structure, that the interest on loans totalled a considerable sum and that some of the loans had been entirely paid off. Under these conditions the Trustees had a right to feel that they were reaching a satisfactory position. Certainly the stockholders thought so, for at their annual meeting at the end of the year 1853 they adopted resolutions warmly commending the work and accomplishments of the Board of Trustees. It is probable that the statement presented by Treasurer Hoon at the meeting on September 6, 1853, was the first which showed a balance on hand. At the November 1 meeting the semi-annual 3 per cent. dividend was declared, and Brother George D. Haswell, of Philadelphia, was appointed agent of the Board to attend to the distribution of dividends in his city. He received a certain commission for the work.

The last meeting of the Trustees in 1853 was held December 12. We cull from the minutes some entries which are significant as showing the attention the Trustees gave to their duties, no matter how important or how small:

On motion, the President was authorized to draw his warrant on the Treasurer for $90.00 to pay 18 mos. interest to the 1st. on $1,000, loan from the Grand Lodge.

The President appointed Wm. B. English & James Shidle a Com-

mittee to audit the books of the Secretary & Treasurer for the past year.

On motion, resolved that when a full price is obtained for the use of the Concert room for a Ball, where it is necessary to remove & replace the seats, that the Janitor be allowed a reasonable extra compensation for the employment of an assistant.

On motion, resolved that a shed be erected in the back yard for the purpose of storing the seats on such occasions, and that suitable tables be procured for the Banqueting room.

With the exception of some financial adjustments, no very important transactions demanded the attention of the Board of Trustees during the year 1854. But within six months they were called upon to mourn the death of two of their most competent and popular members. In the month of June of 1854 occurred, only a few weeks apart, the tragic death of Brother Samuel McKinley and the no less untimely demise of Brother Alexander G. Reinhart. The former was instantly killed in a railroad accident near Altoona, Pa., and the death of the latter was caused by being thrown from a carriage on the streets of Pittsburgh.

Brother Reinhart when he became secretary of the Board of Trustees had discontinued the practice, followed by Secretary McKinley, of noting, in more or less detail, the results of the annual elections in the meetings of the stockholders, and this omission on the part of Brother Reinhart has rendered it somewhat difficult to keep track, with accuracy, of the yearly changes in the membership of the Board. We find, however, that only three of the seven trustees who comprised the Board at the end of 1853 were re-elected for the ensuing twelve months. These three were Brothers Hailman, Hoon and Reinhart. Those retired were Brothers Tindle, Loomis, English and Shidle, the last named being again elected two years later. In their places came back into membership the Board Brothers Charles Shaler and Samuel McKinley, and with them came two other notable Masons, Thomas Davage and William W. Wilson. Brother Davage belonged to St. John's Lodge, No. 219, and had an extensive business as a manufacturer of block and tackle. Brother Wilson was a leading jeweler and a member of Lodge 45. The Board organized at their meeting, January 2, 1854, by re-electing Brothers Hailman president.

Hoon treasurer and Reinhart secretary. At this session the hour for meeting was changed. Since the first gathering of the trustees their regular hour had been 3 o'clock in the afternoon. In the old days before the convenient illumination of oil and gas was available, when the shades of night came down, the sputtering candles were stuck up; but by the year 1854 Masonic Hall had its gas pipes and its gas, hence we read this entry in the minutes of the session of January 2:

> On motion, it was resolved that the meetings of the Board shall hereafter be held in the evening at the usual hour of Lodge meetings, instead of 3 o'clock P. M., as heretofore.

By this year of 1854 the Masonic hall auditorium, known as the "Concert Room," in which Jenny Lind had figured so conspicuously, had become the leading place in the city for high class entertainments and as a meeting place for various important local organizations. The records of a meeting on July 5 announce that "the Committee on Concert Room was authorized to let said room for the use of Rev. Quick's congregation for the balance of the year, on Sunday, at not less than $30 per quarter." Rev. Charles Quick was pastor of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, which building was then undergoing repairs, and for several months his congregation listened to his sermons as they were preached with fervor in the Masonic edifice. At a meeting of the trustees January 3 the concert room was rented to the "Lecture Committee" of the Young Men's Mercantile Association, which came into existence as an incorporated organization in 1851. They were to have "the use of the hall one night pr. week during the winter at $15 pr. night." As a result of this rental, Pittsburgh was given its first regular course of public lectures, which at once became popular and attracted large audiences. The first lecture was delivered March 25, 1854, by the noted writer, George William Curtis, who was then enjoying great popularity as the author of the "Potiphar Papers." The next public affair was a "grand concert," on Monday evening, March 27, given by the Pittsburgh Orchestral Society; and they later repeated the concert for the benefit of the sufferers from a disastrous fire which occurred March 19, 1854, in the village of Birmingham, now within the thickly populated section of the

city of Pittsburgh. Other entertainments in Masonic hall for that year were lectures by the noted author and traveller, Bayard Taylor; by Count Louis Kanzinsky, an accomplished Polish exile, and a succession of concerts by the Hutchinson Family, a popular troupe of singers who had appeared in the city at former times. Among the tenants at this time in the Masonic building was the Life, Fire and Marine Insurance Company, of which Brother James S. Hoon was president. In this year Brother Alexander Tindle was appointed renting agent of the concert room, to receive a compensation of "five pr ct. on the gross amt. rec'd by him; and that said agent shall be accountable for all rents agreeably to the order of the Board & pay the same to the Secretary, whose receipt shall be his voucher therefor." The rent charge for the auditorium was then fixed at $20 per night, as "the minimum price for two nights consecutively or longer period." At a meeting held April 6, 1854, Brothers Shaler, Hoon and Hailman were appointed a committee burdened with the task of looking about for the purchase of an organ "for the use of the Lodge rooms." They finally at a later period succeeded in their quest. The usual semi-annual dividend was declared at a session held May 22, 1854, and the following financial transaction is set down in the minutes:

> The President reported that he had borrowed of Mr. Sholes, of Beaver, $1,500.00 for 12 months from 1st April last, at 8 per cent, pr. annum, for which he gave his note as President of the Board, endorsed by him individually; also his note for $105.00 at 9 months for same interest, and that out of said Loan he had paid $1000 of the 12 pr. cent. loan of the Society. All of which was, on motion, sanctioned by the Board.

It will, of course, be understood that Brother Hailman, in negotiating these and other loans, upon his personal notes and endorsements, was doing so in accordance with the terms of the mortgage and bond held by him against the Masonic property on Fifth avenue, as arranged between him and the Board of Trustees in April, 1851. It will also be observed that in all these financial transactions he acted with the knowledge of the Trustees and always secured their formal confirmation of his acts.

In consequence of the death of Secretary Alexander

Reinhart on June 6, 1854, Brother William W. Wilson was chosen his successor by the Board of Trustees on June 12. Brother Reinhart, who was an alderman in the Fourth ward of the city of Pittsburgh, was 44 years old at the time of his demise, which resulted from an accident. He was driving along the street in Pittsburg in a buggy and was thrown violently from the vehicle to the ground, by the sudden trning of the horse. Taken to his home, it was thought after an examination of his injuries, that they were not of a serious nature. During several days after the accident he attended to the affairs of his office. But on the 6th of June he died suddenly at his residence. A meeting of the Board of Trustees held October 4 was devoted to paying deserved tributes to the memory of Brother Reinhart and Brother Samuel McKinley, who was killed in a railroad accident on August 23, less than three months after the demise of Brother Reinhart. Brother McKinley's death was particularly tragic and sad. He was an earnest member and worker in the Methodist church, and had gone on August 22 to attend a camp meeting held by that denomination at a place known as Hillside Station, and the next day instead of waiting for a passenger train he rode with the engineer on an engine drawing a freight train. Within a short distance of Altoona, Pa., the engine struck an obstruction and was thrown from the track, turning completely over. Brother McKinley was caught beneath the engine and was instantly killed. His death was a great blow to the Masons and to his large number of friends and acquaintances. He had labored so long and with such grand results for the good of the Craft, and had become so conspicuous as one of its leaders in Western Pennsylvania, that expressions of sincere sorrow came alike from individual Masons, from Masonic Bodies and from the Grand Lodge.

While the Trustees and brethren generally deeply mourned the death of these two notable Masons, they could feel at the close of the year 1854 that Masonry was making great advances in Pittsburgh. The lodges and the other Bodies were fast growing in numbers and the Masonic Fund Society was on a sound basis. The new Hall was not only becoming self-sustaining, but also the Craft in Pittsburg

had become an important factor in the social development of the community. The stockholders showed their satisfaction with the achievements of the Board of Trustees by their willingness to retain the entire seven for the year 1855, but Brothers Shaler and Wilson were not candidates for re-election, and in their stead two other well known and efficient members of the Order were chosen. One was Brother James Herdman, whose subsequent career was especially notable as a member of the Board of Trustees, as a member for more than twenty years of the Financial Committee of the Grand Lodge and as a conspicuous Pittsburg banker. He had belonged to the first Milnor Lodge, which ceased to exist in 1837, and in 1851 joined Lodge 45, and later demitting from that Body, he became in 1854 a charter member of the present Milnor Lodge, No. 287. At the time of his entry into the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society he was engaged in the hardware and saddlery business. The other new trustee elected with him for the year 1855 was Dr. Alexander McK. Pollock, of Lodge 45, a leader in Masonic affairs and one of the most popular physicians in Pittsburgh.

At the first session of the Board in 1885 held January 1, Brother Hailman was again chosen president, Hoon treasurer and Pollock secretary. The minutes of the meetings during this year are notable for the number of the Society's financial transactions. Various loans had to be met and additional improvements were made on the new building. As has been mentioned, the trustees in July, 1853, had decided to issue no more stock. But this decision was reconsidered at a meeting held January 2, 1885, which was attended by Brothers Hailman, Herdman, Shidle, Tindle, Hoon and Pollock. A resolution was adopted as follows:

> On motion, resolved that the Board authorize the issue of Four Thousand dollars new stock, of which all sums purchased under one hundred dollars must be paid in cash; One hundred dollars and upwards, one-third cash, one-third in sixty days and the balance in four months.
>
> On motion, the President appointed James Herdman, A. Tindle and Thos. Davage a committee to solicit subscriptions for stock in accordance with the foregoing resolution.

It may be safely assumed that in this action the keen

minds of Brothers Herdman and Hailman were dominating factors. They were men of large affairs, and at this very period were completing, in conjunction with other leading citizens, the formation of a banking establishment, which is now so well known as the Dollar Savings Bank. This bank was, in fact, founded in this year of 1855, and among its charter members were such Masons as Hailman, Herdman, Tindle, Hoon and Shidle, all trustees of the Masonic Fund Society. Later Brother Herdman became president of the bank and retained that office until his death in 1894. From the fact that he was designated as chairman of the committee to solicit subscriptions for the new issue of Masonic Hall stock and from subsequent developments, it is evident that he took upon himself to a large extent the responsibility of securing funds for the Society, thus in a measure relieving Brother Hailman, who had done so much in that line in the past. The Board tackled promptly the financial questions that arose with the year 1855. At a meeting held January 18 President Hailman announced that a note of $500 was due the next day, and that the meeting had been called to provide means for its payment. On motion, the note was "ordered to be paid and that the secretary be ordered to collect all the available rents for that purpose." As a matter of fact, this period of 1855 became one of the most trying times for the Board from a financial standpoint. The treasury was drained. It was drained to such an extent that a special meeting was called February 21, "to devise means to raise money to pay gas and insurance bills." Several of the Masonic Bodies occupying the new building were delinquent to an uncomfortable extent in the way of rent and were asking reductions in rentals. Noting the splendid standing in our day of the Scottish Rite bodies in the Valley of Pittsburgh, we can sympathize with the brethren amidst the difficulties encountered in those times, when we read in the minutes of a meeting of the Board of Trustees held in February that, "it was resolved, that the bill against the Lodge of Perfection amounting to one hundred & seventy dollars, be reduced to eighty dollars." In order to get a further insight into the financial problems of that

period let us note the following entries in the minutes of a session of the trustees held in February:

On motion, resolved that the Trustees pay the expenses of Mr. Baum to Economy for the purpose of endeavoring to negotiate a loan for the Masonic Fund Society.

On motion, it was resolved that St. John's Lodge, No. 219, be permitted to reduce their last subscriptions for one hundred shares of stock to whatever amount it will be necessary to make the whole amount of stock eighteen hundred dollars.

A proposition was received from Pittsburgh Encampment, No. 1, asking such a modification of their lease as would allow them to pay ten dollars for every meeting held, instead of the present arrangement. The petition of the Encampment as above stated was accepted, provided all arrearages be paid to the 1st of April, and then the rent paid regularly every quarter.

Perhaps indeed, this situation may have caused worry in the minds of some of the brethren, and as we read those records of that period one can easily get the impression that the Masonic Fund Society, which had gone along through four years of big achievements, was tottering financially. But subsequent developments show that it was but a temporary trouble. Masons of the high standing and influence of Hailman, Herdman, Shidle, Tindle, Hoon and Pollock, who were on the Board of Trustees that year, were not the kind of men to let a great and cherished Masonic project, now blossoming out to a signal triumph, fail for the lack of some thousands of dollars. They could command large financial resources. And they commanded them.

The weak state of his health and later his duties as D. D. D. Grand Master of the Fifth district, to which position he was appointed in December, 1855, necessitated a lessening of the labors of Brother Hailman as a member of the Board of Trustees, and early in 1855 he gave place to Brother Herdman as the active director of the financial affairs of the Society. The latter brother then set himself to the task of securing needed funds. The first step taken is indicated in the following record of a trustee meeting held May 9, at which Brother Davage, in the absence of President Hailman, acted as president, pro tem.:

On motion duly made, it was resolved that James Herdman is hereby authorized to negotiate a loan of five thousand dollars for the use of the Masonic Fund Society, to be paid back to whom borrowed from by the Trustees of Masonic Fund Society as follows: Two

thousand dollars in one year; two thousand dollars in two years and one thousand dollars in three years, with interest payable semi-annually.

This transaction was negotiated in the following manner: The mortgage of the Masonic property which had been made to Brother Hailman in May, 1851, was "satisfied in full," as shown by the records in the Allegheny county court house, on May 11, 1855. On the same day a similar mortgage to the amount of $5,000 was made on the same property to Brother James Herdman, and was recorded. There is no record in the minutes of the Board of Trustees of this mortgage. But it was a satisfactory arrangement to all, and five years later, as the court records show, it too was also "satisfied in full." The $5,000 which Brother Herdman was to secure, was promptly obtained, as we see by this record of a meeting held June 6:

Mr. Herdman, who was appointed at the last special meeting to negotiate a loan for the Masonic Fund Society, reported that he had succeeded in obtaining the amount required on the terms dictated by the Society. His report was received, and he was discharged from further action in the matter.

At this same session "interest to the amount of $403.95 due the Philadelphia stockholders to the first of May, 1855," was ordered to be paid.

At a meeting on July 3 of that year Brother James S. Hoon presented his written resignation as treasurer of the Society, an office which he had filled since its incorporation in 1850. At the same session Brother Herdman was chosen as his successor. There appears no reasons on the minutes for Treasurer Hoon's retirement from that position, but it is explained by the election of Brother Herdman to the office. The latter was now a man of extensive business and financial relations, and it was doubtless the opinion of the Board of Trustees, shared, we may well believe, by Brother Hoon himself, that it would be of much advantage to the Society to have as its treasurer a trustee whose qualifications and experience would carry successfully the Society through any future troubles over funds. Another resignation came at the meeting held August 8, when Brother Pollock, being in poor health, asked to be relieved of the duties of the office of secretary. But his resignation was

not accepted, and he continued in the position until the end of the year. In the meantime, Brother Hailman, having learned that he was to be appointed D. D. Grand Master in the following December, handed in his resignation as President of the Board of Trustees, which is noted in the minutes in these words:

> A communication from the President, Mr. Hailman, was read, tendering his resignation as President of the Board, which was read and accepted, and the secretary ordered, by unanimous vote of the Board, to tender to Mr. Hailman their regret at parting with him as a member, and expressing their high appreciation of his valuable services to the Society, in the able manner in which he conducted its affairs; and for the urbane and courteous manner in which he filled the office of Chairman.

The above record seems to allow the inference that Brother Hailman was resigning both as President and as a member of the Board. He did not resign from the Board. The use of the word "member" in the record is an error. His retirement from the office of president was due to the fact that he was then travelling for his health in Europe, and was in fact across the ocean when the resignation was accepted. He had been first chosen president of the Board in December, 1849, and had held the office continually ever since.

So far as the minutes of the Society show the trustees went ahead in a successful manner advancing the interests of the Craft in Pittsburgh. But according to the developments in the stockholders' annual meeting, December 27, 1855, to elect trustees for the ensuing twelve months, there was dissatisfaction to some extent, as is indicated by the meager records left of that session by Brother Pollock who was secretary of the stockholders' session. We find that but three of the Board were re-elected, these being Brothers Hailman, Davage and Shidle. Brothers Herdman, Hoon, Pollock and Tindle were defeated. Very little information is obtainable as to the cause for the failure to re-elect these excellent servants of the Masonic Fund Society. But there seems to have got abroad a wrong and exaggerated opinion of the then management of the Society's financial affairs, and perhaps the well known dominating personality of Brother Herdman had something to do with his defeat and some

of those who stood by him. There was a tie vote between Brothers Hoon and John Birmingham, who was a candidate at this stockholders' meeting, and at a second meeting held January 29, the latter was elected a trustee. Thus the new Board for the year 1856 comprised Brothers Charles Shaler, who seems to have been regularly chosen whenever his professional duties allowed him the time; William W. Wilson, who had been a trustee a part of the year 1854; John Birmingham, long prominent as a member of the Craft, and Alexander Culbertson, of Franklin Lodge, No. 221. The Board organized December 31, 1855, by again choosing Brother Hailman president, despite his absence in Europe, and Shaler was elected president pro tem. For Secretary, Wilson was elected and Culbertson was given the office of treasurer. However, whatever differences and preferences may have prevailed, among the stockholders, the trustees started in the new year with fraternal unity. The first meeting was held January 1, and the only business noted in the minutes is that the secretary was directed "to have the Concert and refreshment room cleaned and put in proper order for the Military Ball on the 8th January." This event proved to be a big social affair and was given considerable space in the newspapers. At the next session Secretary Wilson was made renting agent for the building, "to keep the same in order," and to receive a commission of 5 per cent. on the collections. The following is also recorded:

> After considerable conversation on the condition of the books of this Society, Resolved, that the Secretary be authorized to purchase such blank books as is required by the By-Laws and as may be best adapted to exhibit the accounts and affairs of the Masonic Fund Society in a clear and intelligent form, and open said books, or have it done, in the best manner.

Much of the time of the trustees during the early part of the year 1856 was taken up with making important alterations in the Masonic building, and there are a number of dates on which the only record is, "No quorum present." The concert room was repainted and attention given to other parts of the edifice. On March 4 Brother Samuel B. Cooper, who had been janitor of the Masonic Hall since its opening, resigned, and Brother G. W. Bracey, of Lodge 45, was elected "to take charge of the building as janitor for the annual

salary of two hundred and fifty dollars." The extent of the changes made in the building may be gauged by the following from the minutes of a meeting held August 7, 1856:

A bill of Jno. Chambers for alterations of 1st story, etc., am't'g to $2518.75 was presented. On motion, the bill was accepted and ordered to be settled agreeably to contract; provided, a reduction of forty dollars be made for the cast iron pillars to support girders, which has been charged in Anderson's bill to the Board.

But just at that date there was no ready cash available with which to pay Mr. Chambers, and the secretary was "instructed to draw up and have signed the following notes in settlement of above bill." Whereupon three notes were made out, each for $625, "to run six, nine and twelve months." On October 23 two plumbing bills were presented aggregating $461.44, and the total of the taxes on the Fifth avenue property for the year 1855 was shown to be $422.45.

The stockholders met in annual session December 1, when an important financial problem was decided, as the record shows:

The secretary asked for information on the following point, viz: Shall interest be credited upon certificates of stock issued for dividends? After considerable discussion and much diversity of opinion, the following motion, duly seconded, was adopted, viz: That interest be credited to all stock fully paid, from date of full payment to the first day of Nov'r, 1856, at 6 pr ct. pr. annum; and the original stock, together with the dividends, shall draw interest from that date, & certificates be thus issued for principal and interest.

On motion, resolved that the Board of Trustees after this year, shall allow the Secretary of the Board such a percentage on the collections or revenue of the building as shall not exceed one hundred dollars per annum.

The only change made in the membership of the Board for the year 1857 was the retirement of James Shidle and the election in his place of William Noble, who had served as trustee during a short period in 1850. But the financial situation was a bit bothersome. At a meeting January 15 a bill came in "for lumber for elevating the rear seats in Concert hall, amt'g to $228.69." There was no money on hand with which to pay it, and this additional information is given:

President stated that two notes in favor of J. B. Chambers, late contractor, for materials, would be due on 21st inst., & there would not be funds in treasury sufficient to pay said notes. It was

ordered that they be renewed for such amt., as we would be unable to pay.

At this meeting the free use of the hall was given "for a concert for the benefit of the Passavant Infirmary on next Monday evening." Then on May 26 came up again for consideration the troublesome Chambers notes, and after various plans for securing the necessary funds had been suggested, Brother John Birmingham proposed that he would obtain the money "on note of the Board, maturing October 5, provided the quarterly rents due in October be ordered by the Board to be reserved to meet said note." This proposition was accepted, Brother Birmingham endorsed a note for $581.25, and at the same meeting extensions of other financial obligations were arranged. It must be admitted that this period was another precarious one from a financial standpoint for the Board of Trustees. The minutes of the meetings frankly show that there were very perplexing troubles. On June 2 the trustees notified Treasurer Culbertson to present "a statement of the finances" at the next session, and on June 9 it became necessary to empower the president to negotiate additional notes to the extent of over $1,000. Former Janitor S. B. Cooper presented a statement of arrearages due on his salary to the amount of $325. It could not be paid. At this meeting, June 9, this resolution was adopted:

On motion, resolved that the Treasurer be instructed to pay out no money hereafter, except on an order signed by the President and countersigned by the Secretary, in accordance with the By-Laws.

There was no meeting of the trustees after June 9 until October 13, when matters came to a climax, as is shown by these minutes:

On motion, Bro. A. Culbertson was deposed from the office of Treasurer of this Board, for neglect of duty.

On motion, Bro. Birmingham was elected Treasurer, and authorized to procure the books and papers from the late treasurer.

Another unpleasant result of this unfortunate situation was that the Board was compelled to pass the regular annual dividend, as shown by the minutes of a meeting November 3, 1856:

The subject of declaring a dividend being under consideration, Resolved, that we consider it inexpedient at the present to declare a

dividend, and refer the further consideration thereof to the stockholders at their annual meeting in December.

The stockholders met December 27, and Brother William W. Wilson, who was secretary of the session, has left this record:

Bro. J. W. Hailman, President of the Board of Trustees, presented the Annual Report, which was, on motion, accepted and 300 copies ordered to be printed for the use of the stockholders.

On motion, resolved that the Treasurer be required hereafter to give security to the amt. of $1,000—dollars—for the faithful discharge of the duties of his office.

Resolved, that the Trustees for the ensuing year be instructed to have the third story and hall & stairway thoroughly renovated, in a requisite amt., not exceeding $1,000, agreeably to the recommendation of the President in the Annual Report just read.

A proposition to purchase a safe, "in which to keep the Society's records and papers," was also brought up at this meeting of the stockholders, but action thereon was postponed, "on account of the low state of our funds at present." The stockholders then made a big change in the membership of the Board for the year 1858. They retained Brothers Hailman, Davage and Noble, and they brought back into the Board three experienced former Trustees, Brothers Herdman, Shidle and Pollock. The one entirely new member elected was Col. William Phillips, at that period an extensive glass manufacturer and later very prominent in railroad affairs. It was again a Board of strong men, and they promptly elected Brother Herdman treasurer, and again chose Hailman for president and Pollock for secretary. These brothers immediately set about the task of putting the Society again into a sound financial condition. They passed a resolution, January 5, 1858, appointing a "committee of two (who shall not be members of the Board), to examine the books of the Masonic Fund Society and report the result of the examination to the Trustees;" and in accordance with the resolution adopted December of the preceding year, "the treasurer, Mr. Herdman, deposited with the President a bond for one thousand dollars." It was also decided to go ahead and make repairs to the building at a cost not exceeding $1,000. Then sufficient money to meet obligations appeared as if by magic, so that all bills presented at subse-

quent meetings were promptly ordered to be paid. Advertisements were inserted in the local and New York city newspapers, as had been done several years before, proclaiming the desirability of the auditorium of the Hall as a popular place for lectures and entertainments. In June the congregation of the Second Presbyterian Church, then erecting a new edifice for themselves, rented the hall for some time, using it in Sunday afternoons. An offer was received to lease the concert room for billiard room purposes, but at a meeting held July 6, it was, as the minutes set forth, "on motion of Brother Herdman, duly seconded, unanimously resolved, that we will not rent the concert room for a billiard saloon, for any price nor to any person." However, the proposition was referred to the stockholders who held a special meeting July 20, and at this gathering this action was taken:

Whereas, application has been made for the use of the Concert room for a billiard room, with the privilege of a bar therein for the sale of liquors.

Resolved, that it is incompatible with the teachings of the Order and the good standing of the Fraternity in this city to grant the use of any part of this building for the sale of liquor; and the Trustees are hereby instructed not to lease it with this privilege attached, in any case.

On September 7 the secretary was authorized "to rent the Concert room to the First Universalist Society, to be occupied on Sunday and Sunday nights only, for $300 per annum, the Universalist Society to furnish their own janitor, and the Masonic Fund Society to furnish light and fuel." Now and then odd features get into the minutes of the meetings. Doubtless in future times when many of the necessities of sixty years ago have become mysteries somebody will read, perhaps with solemn shakings of the head, this terrible entry, in connection with bills to be paid, in the minutes of a meeting of the worthy members of the Masonic Fund Society:

"Ricketson, for Whiskey & Alcohol for meter....$11.05."

But elderly men of the present day chuckle reminiscently as they give the historical information that the aforementioned dealings with the Demon Rum was not for the purpose of wetting mortal throats. It was the gas burner

of those times that had the unholy thirst. Like the flint which was used to prime the ancient muskets, whiskey or alcohol was needed to start the gas into illuminating activities.

It is interesting to note at this time the evidences of the continued popularity of the auditorium, or "Concert room", of the Masonic Hall as a place convenient for the meeting of various organizations. Mention of some of these has already been made, and in addition we find in the minutes of a meeting on November 30, 1858, a resolution to "allow the Young Men's Christian Association to use the Concert room of the Hall from 11½ to 12½ o'clock every day of the week, except Sunday, for holding a Union prayer meeting, at the rate of two dollars and fifty cents per day, the Association to furnish their own janitor." At this meeting, November 30, Brothers Davage and Phillips were "appointed a committee to audit the accounts of the secretary and treasurer;" and the following result is given at a meeting December 27:

The Auditing Committee presented their report, of which the following is a copy: The undersigned committee appointed to examine the books and accounts of the Secretary and Treasurer of the Masonic Fund Society during the year 1858 to December 1st, respectfully report that they have attended to that duty and find them to be correct.

Dated Dec'r 16th, 1858.

Wm. Phillips,
Thos. Davage.

The above report was, on motion duly seconded, accepted and ordered to be entered in the Minute Book.

At a stockholders' meeting of this year, December 6, the trustees were the recipients of a commendation from a high authority, in the shape of a resolution presented by that noted lawyer and jurist, William McCandless, as these records show:

A resolution offered by Wilson McCandless, Esq., was unanimously passed, complimenting the Trustees of the Society on the elegance and beauty displayed in carrying into effect the resolution passed at the last annual meeting, relative to refitting the third story of the Hall.

The election for trustees for the year 1859 was held by the stockholders in December, 1858, and we find for the first

time an extended record of the manner of conducting the elections and the number of ballots cast:

Pittsburgh, Dec'r 27, 1858.

This being the day designated by the Constitution to elect a Board of Trustees to serve for the ensuing year, pursuant to notice published in the daily newspapers, the Stockholders assembled at the Hall, 5th St., at 6 o'c P. M., and organized by selecting John Evans and W. T. Moore for Judges, and T. W. Wright and G. M. Bacon secretaries. The Polls were closed at 8 o'c P. M., and the result was found as follows; viz.:

J. W. Hailman	received	68 votes
Wm. Phillips	"	84 "
Thos. Davage	"	67 "
A. M. Pollock	"	83 "
Wm. Noble	"	68 "
Jas. Herdman	"	68 "
Jas. Shidle	"	68 "
S. M. Wickersham	"	21 "
C. Shaler	"	18 "
Thos. Palmer	"	18 "
Wilson McCandless	"	1 "

The seven gentlemen first named above, having received a majority of all the votes (86) polled, were declared duly elected.

John Evans, W. F. Moore } Judges.
G. M. Bacon, T. W. Wright } Sec'tys.

It will be seen by the above record that so well were the stockholders gratified with the course of the Trustees during the year 1858, so fraught with financial bothers, that the entire seven were re-elected. It should be here explained in that case of Judge Charles Shaler who received 18 votes as noted above, that he was not a candidate at the time. He was a popular man and Mason, and usually when he was not a candidate for election as trustee there were always a number of votes cast for him anyhow. The Board organized January 3, 1859, by retaining Hailman as president, Herdman as treasurer and Pollock as secretary. Brother Arthur Prichard was chosen janitor. At a meeting held March 1 the secretary was by resolution, invested with authority to "do all the renting of the building, on such terms as he may deem proper, with the assent of the Board of Trustees." This arrangement was, however, only temporary. The minutes of the remaining meetings of the

trustees throughout the year 1859 contain nothing of special interest; but they show that bills aggregating several thousand dollars were promptly paid in full, as presented to the Board. In fact, the Masonic Fund Society found themselves at the close of the year 1859 in a financial condition of the most encouraging nature, and the outlook was so reassuring that they felt sure they could count on a continuance of the promising status as to money matters. They then determined to make arrangements for future payments of certain charges resting on their property. These charges were ground rents which went with the land they had acquired on Fifth avenue and on which their Hall stood. These rents aggregated annually about $150 and it was determined to get rid of them as soon as possible by purchase. They decided in order to accumulate funds for this purpose, to create a Sinking Fund, and this plan was recommneded and endorsed at a stockholders' meeting held December 5, 1859, as follows:

> On motion, it was resolved that the Board of Trustees be and they are hereby recommended to set apart, annually, if practicable, the sum of one thousand dollars, and thereby create a Sinking Fund, for the purpose exclusively of liquidating the ground rent falling due on the Hall, at or before its maturity.

This recommendation was carried out by the Board, the Sinking Fund was created, and, as we shall see further on, proved to be an excellent arrangement. It was in fact, by this method that the ground rents were finally extinguished.

The entire Board of Trustees was re-elected for the year 1860, and the trustees re-elected Brothers Hailman, Herdman and Pollock to the three offices of the Board. The minutes of the first half of this year deal mostly with the prompt payment of bills and other routine matters. The days of doubt and of financial difficulties were over; and even when the dreadful turmoil of the Civil war broke loose in the coming year, the trustees could feel that both the fraternity and the Masonic Fund Society were on a solid and durable foundation. But in July of 1860 the trustees and the local Craft in general met with a great loss by the death of another esteemed and influential Mason. On the third day of that month Brother James S. Hailman breathed

his last. He had long been in ill health, and his recent extended trip to Europe had brought no permanent relief. He had been made a Mason in Lodge 45 in 1846; and he had been one of the first seven trustees of the Masonic Fund Society, where his presence, his example and his activities had been of immense value to the Craft. He did great work in aiding to establish the various Bodies of the Fraternity in Allegheny county, and as a citizen, a merchant and a banker had won high and deserved prominence and popular confidence. He died in his beautiful home on Shady avenue, in Pittsburgh, mourned by all the Craft.

Brother Hailman was succeeded as President of the Board of Trustees by Col. William Phillips, and at a special stockholders' meeting called July 20 to fill the vacancy on the Board caused by the death of Hailman, William J. Anderson was unanimously elected. He was a member of Franklin Lodge, No. 221, and a member of the firm of John Anderson & Co., iron founders.

At a meeting of the Board held July 17 the secretary was directed "to have the stock and loan accounts adjusted and the interest thereon calculated;" and at a session on August 7 the following action was taken:

> The Secretary reported that he had arranged the stock accounts and calculated the interest due up to May 1st, 1860; then read a list of the stockholders and the amount of stock and interest to which they are individually entitled. Total amount of stock, $31,388.52.
>
> On motion, of Mr. Herdman, it was resolved that the interest on the stock held in Philadelphia, due up to May 1st, 1860, made a total amount of $1,066.50, being for five years, viz: from May, 1855, together with $300.00 due to the Grand Lodge on certificate of loan for the same time, be paid by the Treasurer in the month of September next; and that the back interest on all other stock be credited to the stockholders in stock.

This was, in effect, the most satisfactory financial report that had as yet been made. They could now pay up all the accumulated interest of five years back. There was a hearty readiness on the part of the local brethren to accept the payment of their interest in stock, and the cash disbursements to the Philadelphia stockholders was in accordance with the policy adopted, as we have seen, years before.

The payments of dividends was renewed, as shown by this entry in the minutes of a meeting November 6:

Resolved, that this Society do now declare a dividend of three per cent. on the last six months, to the 1st inst., payable on and after the tenth (10th) day of January, 1861.

The annual meeting of the stockholders held December 5, 1860, was presided over by Brother Isaac Whittier, of St. John's Lodge, No. 219. The report of President Phillips was accepted, and after noting that fact the secretary of the meeting gives this information:

After which, remarks were made by several of the stockholders, complimenting the Trustees on the successful manner in which they had managed the affairs of the Society.

Also the Trustees were directed "to have a gas light placed over the entrance nearest to Wood street." For the year 1861 all the old trustees were re-elected, and the Board then consisted of Brothers Phillips, President; Herdman treasurer; Pollock secretary, and Noble, Shidle, Davage and Anderson. At the last meeting of the Board in 1860, December 31, the auditing committee made a report which showed "the amount of the receipts over the disbursements to be $385.33."

One material factor in the improved financial status of the Society at this time was the increased revenue from rentals of those portions of the Masonic building devoted to stores and to public entertainments. Considerable money had been spent on improvements in the structure, and the "Concert room" had been handsomely refitted and made more convenient for audiences and performers. As a result, after it had been reopened at the beginning of 1861 there came numerous applications for its use. The first extended lease made is noted in the minutes of a meeting of the Board, February 4, 1861:

The secretary reported that he had leased the Concert room to James Matthews, Jr., for fourteen months from the first day of Feb'y inst., with the privilege of four years more, at a rate of $1500.00 per annum, payable monthly, with undoubted security, said Matthews to use the room for the purposes now used, and not to sell spirituous liquors or convert it into a billiard saloon.

Mr. Matthews, who acted under the firm name of J. Matthews & Co., intended to give a series of popular theat-

rical entertainments, and the first of these was given Thursday evening, February 28, 1861. It was well attended. The newspapers had published friendly notices, the Pittsburgh "Gazette," announcing that "Masonic Hall will be opened to the public on Thursday evening under the management of Mr. James Matthews, a gentleman well known in this city." But in April following the great Civil war broke out and for a long time little attention was paid to popular entertainments, except those devoted to the welfare of the soldiers. In that month, therefore, Matthews, seeing failure ahead, asked the trustees to cancel his lease. They generously agreed to do so, and at a meeting held June 4 Secretary Pollock reported that he had "allowed Mr. Matthews to give up the Concert room, provided he paid the rent to the 1st of May and put the room in the same condition it was when he took it." Nevertheless, within a year after the outbreak of the war the "Concert room" was again in much demand. But it was also devoted to purely patriotic purposes. Without any expense to the government, draft boards met there, and many times it was used for drilling the young soldiers, ardently demanding to go to the Front. And it is not amiss to recall here that again, nearly sixty years afterwards, the Trustees of the same Masonic Fund Society gave to the Government of the United States a large part of the great Temple now standing, and thousands of splendid young American soldiers found there comfortable quarters, while being prepared to go to battlefields in France.

Routine matters and the prompt payments of bills comprise most of the records of the meetings of the Board during 1861; but on November 1 of that year a six per cent. dividend was declared "out of the profits of the last year, ending Oct. 31st, 1861, payable on and after the 16th day of December next; public notice to be given about the 1st of December." The stockholders held a most amiable session in December and signalized their approbation of the work of the Board by voting for nobody but the Trustees then in office.

Secretary Pollock notes in his minutes of the first meeting in 1862 on February 4, that the Auditing Committee presented a report in which they declare they have at-

tended to the duties assigned them, and then add that they "take great pleasure in stating that they found the books in good order and the accounts exactly correct." The minutes show that tenants for the store rooms were not hard to secure, and Brothers Pollock, Shidle, Herdman and Davage were designated as a committee to look around and "decide what painting and repairing was necessary to be done to the building, both inside and out." November 1 a six per cent. dividend was declared "out of the profits of the last year, ending October 31, 1862." The seven trustees were all kept in office for the year 1863, and while the minutes for that year are mostly of a routine order, they indicate that the trustees were paying strict attention to all details and steadily improving the financial condition of the Society. An important action was taken at a meeting held December 1, when the treasurer was authorized "to pay on the first day of January, 1864, two thousand dollars on the permanent debt of the Society."

The old Board was chosen to serve for the year 1864. Nothing of particular note appears on the minutes for those twelve months, and the usual six per cent. dividend was declared. For the year 1865 the members of the Board were again re-elected at the stockholders' meeting, and at the first session of the Board that year the Hall Committee was "authorized to put a new floor on the stage." The seven trustees were kept in office for the year 1866, with Brother Phillips President, Herdman treasurer and Pollock secretary. At the meeting January 1 of this year Brother Charles F. Porter, a member of Milnor Lodge, No. 287, was elected janitor of the Masonic building, to replace Brother Arthur Prichard, who had become incapacitated by illness. In connection with this matter the following appears on the minutes:

> Charles F. Porter was elected janitor at a salary of $500 per annum, and the secretary was authorized to write to the presiding Officers of the different Bodies meeting in the Hall and ask their co-operation in securing an efficient person for janitor, by appointing Mr. Porter as Tyler, if consistent with their duties to their Lodges.
>
> Mr. A. Prichard who so long and faithfully filled the position of janitor, is now permanently disabled by sickness, and we make this

record as an expression of our regret for the necessity of making a change.

At a later meeting the salary of the janitor was raised to $600 a year. The usual six per cent dividend was declared on November 5 and when the stockholders assembled in December they re-elected all the Trustees for the year 1867, and again formally expressed words of satisfaction over the good management of the affairs of the Society. The Board met for the first time that year, 1867, on February 5 and the use of the "Concert room" was granted free of charge for a concert for the benefit of the poor of the city. At this meeting appeared the good results of the sinking fund which had been created in December, 1859, the purpose being the accumulation of a fund with which to buy and extinguish the ground rents on the lot on Fifth avenue. Each successive year something had been added to that fund, and by the year 1867 there was a respectable amount on hand for the purpose. So at a meeting held February 5 of that year a resolution was adopted "authorizing the Treasurer, Brother Herdman, to buy out the ground rents owned by the heirs of Mrs. Anderson at a sum not exceeding the par value." The treasurer promptly attended to the matter and at a meeting held April 2 he reported that he had purchased and extinguished some old ground rents at a cost of $1,000. There was still another of these rent charges existing, but this too was brought to an end by purchase, as reported to the Trustees by Treasurer Herdman at a meeting held August 6, 1867.

For the year 1868 all the trustees were again chosen; but nothing of note appears upon the minutes for the twelve months, and the whole Board was re-elected in December to serve for the year 1869. We read in the minutes of a meeting of the Board, September 7, that "the use of the hall was granted to the ladies of Trinity (Episcopal) church for one or two nights in October, for charitable purposes." These free uses of the hall for charitable purposes were of frequent occurrence.

One of the problems which always comes to the front in the course of the occupation of Masonic Halls or Temples, that of space for the various bodies, rose up to bother the

minds of the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society during the period with which we are now concerned. The great war between the North and South had ended and the Masonic Craft was in 1869 making great strides in membership. The various Bodies were crowding the Hall. More space was needed, and already the idea of a new and larger Masonic building was being spread. The Trustees took up this question and suggestions were offered as to what changes might be made in the Fifth avenue structure in order to provide more room. But the only proposition that seemed at all practicable under the circumstances was to make use of the auditorium for lodge purposes. At a meeting of stockholders held December 6, 1869, the proposition to transform the "Concert room" into one or more lodge rooms was considered. The trustees were, on motion, directed to look into the matter, and "if they think it feasible and proper, they are hereby authorized to make said alteration." But the matter seems to have gone no further; there are no other references to it in any of the records, and the suggested alterations were never made. Another problem, not so easily disposed of, came up for consideration at a session of the trustees held December 7, of the same year. Charges had been made that the room in which the Blue Lodges met had not been kept in good condition, and after some debate at this meeting of the subject, action was taken. It has particular importance as showing the relationship between the Masonic Bodies of that period and the Board of Trustees, with regard to the occupation of the Masonic Hall. The record is as follows:

After due deliberation, the following resolution was passed unanimously: Resolved, that the duties of the person appointed as janitor of the Masonic Hall shall consist in a general supervision of all parts of the building and the property therein contained, not belonging to the Lodges individually; and that the janitor of the Hall is not by virtue of his office to act as Tyler to the Lodges. Each Lodge having the power to appoint its own Tyler, it is, in our opinion, clearly the duty of the Lodges to compel the party whom they may appoint as Tyler to keep the Lodge room and furniture clean and in good condition.

We consider the relation between the Trustees and the Lodges the same as landlord and tenant; therefore, it would follow that our

duty to our tenants is to keep the premises in good tenantable condition.

Another matter, which furnishes interesting information, came up at this same session of the Board. A communication was read from St. John's Lodge, No. 219, which had been brought, as the minutes state, "through a committee consisting of Messrs. Isaac Broome, Wm. Halpin and S. M. Wickersham," in which it was asked "how much of the stock of this Society was held by the Lodges and how much by persons outside of the Order." In the same minutes is this copy of the reply sent by Secretary Pollock:

In reply to your communication, based on the action of your Lodge at a stated meeting held November 11, 1869, I would reply that the document to which you refer did not reach me till last night, (Dec. 7). This will account for the failure to reply.

The Lodges hold about twenty thousand dollars of the stock of the Masonic Fund Society, and individuals about ten thousand.

The individual holders of the stock were located in many different places; but it may be said here that only a comparatively small portion of the individual holdings was distributed among people who did not belong to the Masonic fraternity.

The stockholders at the end of the year were retained in office for the twelve months of 1870, and, as the minutes of their meeting show, no matters outside of the line of routine were brought up. Many bills were paid and the usual six per cent. dividend was declared. For the year 1871 there was again no change in the membership of the Board. During that period a good deal of money was expended in the way of improvements to the building and refurnishing the interior. On October 3 a bill of $868.11 for carpets was ordered paid. The same trustees were chosen for 1872 during which period the records are barren of anything of special note, and when the stockholders got together in December they unanimously re-elected the old Board for the year 1873. At a meeting of the Board February 4, of this year the matter of the secretary's pay was disposed of in this manner: "On motion, resolved that $300 be paid the Secretary for past services, (A. M. Pollock), and that his salary be increased to $500 per annum from the commencement of the present year."

In this year, 1873, we find a record of formal and practical action taken with reference to the realization of the fundamental purpose for which the Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny was created. That purpose was the extension and proper distribution of a fund for purely charitable uses. In the past the financial condition of the Society had not permitted an extensive and systematic practice of fraternal benevolence. Nevertheless, the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society had not been remiss in adhering practically to that provision in their charter, which says: "The object of the Society shall be the distribution of Charity; the relief of such of the Masonic fraternity, their widows and orphan children, as may require its aid." On many occasions, with true Masonic unobtrusiveness and without making a record of the act, substantial aid had gone out from the Trustees. Destitute or sick brethren in need were helped, and for years there was a large fund, kept in existence for the maintenance of the helpless daughter of one of the creator's of the Masonic Fund Society, who at his death had left only a small portion of this world's goods. But now, in 1873, the Masonic Fund Society, having weathered rough financial storms, having had in the earlier years the support of a membership which always gave what it could, but which was then too weak in numbers to give with the bounty of our days, was at last in position to begin that splendid course of fraternal benevolence which has marked its notable and honorable career to this day. In the By-Laws of the Masonic Fund Society is this provision:

The Fund for Charity shall be placed at the credit of the Secretary of the Board of Trustees, in one of the banks of the City of Pittsburgh, and shall be only disbursed by him upon the order of the Relief Committee, which shall consist of three members of the Board, to be elected by the Board at their annual organization.

In accordance with that provision, we find the following in the record of a meeting of the Board held November 3, 1873:

Whereas, The Masonic Fund Society being now in condition to comply with the requirements of the Charter and By-Laws, relative to disbursements for charitable purposes; Resolved, that five per centum of the net profits be placed in the hands of the Secretary, to be

taken charge of and managed by him according to Article VIII. of the By-Laws.

This arrangement was put into practical effect immediately. In the same minutes we come upon another evidence of the successful management of the financial affairs of the Society. A dividend of 50 per cent. was declared, as the record shows:

Resolved, that a dividend of Fifty per centum per annum be and is hereby declared on the capital stock of this Society, out of the profits of the last year, together with the accumulations of previous profits, free of government tax, payable to the stockholders, or their legal representatives, on and after the twelfth day of January, 1874.

The stockholders met December 27, 1873, to elect Trustees for the ensuing twelve months, and with this election came the first change in the membership of the Board during a period of thirteen years. Without doubt there would have been no new trustees chosen then had not Brother William Noble refused to be a candidate for re-election, owing to ill health, which in fact resulted in his death before the end of the year 1873. His place was filled by the election of Brother William Thompson, at that time a shoe merchant with his place of business at No. 16 Fourth avenue, Pittsburgh. He was a member of St. John's Lodge, No. 219.

In this year, the Masonic Fund Society and the Craft in general suffered another great loss in the death of Col. William Phillips, in April, 1874. He had been elected a Trustee in December, 1857, and was chosen president of the Board to succeed James W. Hailman, who died in 1860, and held that office at the time of his demise. His death took place after an illness of two months, at his residence, No. 177 Third avenue, in Pittsburgh. He was widely known as a manufacturer and an influential leader in the promotion of railroad enterprises and other interests. At his death the City Hall was draped in mourning and memorial resolutions were adopted by various municipal bodies, by banks and commercial organizations generally. His funeral was a notable one, and was attended by many prominent men from numerous parts of the United States. The Board of Trustees elected Brother Davage to succeed Brother Phillips as President, and in December the vacancy on the Board was filled at a stockholders meeting December 28, 1874, by the

election of Brother George Glass, energetic and popular in Masonic circles, and a member of Washington Lodge, No. 253. He was a prosperous baker and had a baking establishment on Wylie avenue, near Tunnel street. Before the close of the year the Board again signalized their growing financial strength by declaring a dividend of 20 per cent.

When the Board met the first time in 1875, in January 4, the members were, Brothers Thomas Davage, President; James S. Herdman, Treasurer; Alexander M. Pollock, Secretary, and James Shidle, William P. Anderson, William P. Thompson and George Glass. At this meeting another change of janitors was made. Brother Charles F. Porter, who several years before, had succeeded Brother Richard Prichard in that position, was himself, succeeded by the late Thomas C. Graham, of Lodge 45. In later years this well known Mason became Tyler of the Bodies in the Fifth avenue building and retained that position until a few months before his death, March 1, 1916. Brother Graham, who was long affectionately known to the Craft as "Tommie," served in the capacity of janitor first and then tyler for a period of over 40 years in the Masonic Halls on Fifth avenue and as Tyler of the various Bodies in the present Temple until his death in 1916.

The records of the meetings of the Board during the year 1875 mention only routine business, including the payment of quite a number of bills. On April 6 came the announcement of the death of another member of the Board of Trustees. This was Brother William J. Anderson who had died late in March. He was a member of Franklin Lodge, No. 221, was a highly esteemed member of the Fraternity and had long been prominent as a manufacturer, of the firm of John Anderson & Co., iron founders. Another of the ground rents on the Masonic property was extinguished by purchase by Treasurer Herdman, who reported June 1, 1875, that he "had purchased the interests of B. F. Anderson, G. W. Anderson and Elizabeth Graham in the ground rent of the Hall property, according to direction of the Board, for the sum of $250." The business of the year as shown by the minutes was signaled by announcing a dividend of 12 per cent.

The old Board was re-elected to serve during the Centennial year of 1876, the members being Brothers Davage, Herdman, Thompson, Shidle, Pollock, Glass and Ferdinand E. Volz, the latter elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Brother Anderson. Brother Volz was a pastmaster of Franklin Lodge, No. 221. He had been in the year 1852 assessor of water tax in the city of Pittsburgh and in 1854 was elected Mayor. At the time of his election as trustee he was paymaster in the employ of the Allegheny Valley Railroad Company. The Board's officers during 1876 were: Davage, President; Herdman, Treasurer; Pollock, Secretary.

Then on April 2, 1876, the Board lost another valued member by death. This time it was the greatly esteemed Brother Thomas Davage. His demise caused widespread sorrow not only among the members of the Craft, but also among a wide circle of friends generally.

A matter of interest connected with the Masonic Hall was the permanent closing in 1876 of the famous "Concert room" for public entertainments. It was leased to the firm of Campbell, Williamson & Dick, to be "used exclusively for the sale of dry goods, and for no other purpose whatever." This firm continued to occupy the hall until the building was destroyed in 1887 by fire. There having been no celebrations or other events during the Centennial year at which the Board of Trustees had figured as a Body, there are of course no references to that great celebration; but as indicative of the financial status of the Board a dividend of 15 per cent. was announced. On December 27 the stockholders elected the Board for the year 1877, two new members being chosen, Brother Davage having died and Brother Volz not being re-elected. The membership at the beginning of this year were: President, Shidle; Treasurer, Herdman; Secretary, Pollock; and Glass, Thompson, William G. McCandless and Charles C. Baer. The latter was the head of the firm of Charles C. Baer & Co., tobacco merchants on Wood street, and was a member of Milnor Lodge, No. 287. Brother McCandless, who was also a member of Milnor Lodge, 287, was in the insurance firm of Swearingen & McCandless, with offices on Fourth avenue. According to the minutes of the

year, 1877, only routine business demanded the attention of the trustees, and in November they declared a 15 per cent. dividend. The stockholders retained the old board for 1878 and they did the same at the end of 1879. The first minutes of the year 1879 announce the death of that beloved and useful Mason, James Shidle, who died on the 15th of January. The record relative to this sad event is as follows:

Brother James Herdman announced the death of James Shidle, our late President, which occurred on the 15th day of January, 1879; when, on motion, Resolved that A. M. Pollock, Secr'y, be requested to prepare resolutions expressive of the sentiments of this Board relative to the deceased, and report the same at our next meeting.

Brother James Shidle had been a member of the Masonic Order for about 40 years and was a charter member and past master of St. John's Lodge No. 219, having belonged first to old Ohio Lodge, No. 113. He was at the time of his death prominent in business circles as a wall paper manufacturer, and was one of the vice presidents of the Pittsburgh Dollar Savings bank. Brother George Glass was chosen by the Board to succeed Brother Shidle as President, and during the year 1879 much attention was given to improvements and repairs in the Masonic building, and in November a 15 per cent dividend was declared. When the stockholders met to elect a Board for 1880 they chose all the old members and elected Brother George T. Oliver to fill the vacancy on the Board caused by the death of Brother James Shidle. The new trustee was a prominent attorney and member of the law firm of Oliver and Rogers. He belonged to St. John's Lodge, No. 219. Repairs in and about the Hall, the prompt payment of bills and the announcement of a 12 per cent. dividend were the features of the minutes of the year 1880. During most of these twelve months Secretary Pollock had been confined to his home by illness, and his work was performed at the meetings of the Board by Brother Charles C. Baer. The Board was re-elected for 1881, but no matters of particular consequence came up for consideration. However, we get the information from the minutes of a meeting held July 5 that "on motion, the Secretary, A. M. Pollock, was granted leave of absence during his contemplated visit to Europe." By November of the same

year Brother Pollock, much improved in health, was back in his office as secretary. In December a 12 per cent. dividend was declared and the Board was re-elected by the stockholders to serve through the year 1882. At a meeting of the trustees held July 4, 1882, the death of Brother William Thompson was announced, in the following words:

The death of William P. Thompson, one of the Trustees of this Board, having been reported, it was on motion, resolved, that a committee be appointed to prepare appropriate resolutions to be reported to the next meeting of the Board. The president appointed Messrs. Pollock, Baer and Herdman.

In November another 12 per cent. dividend was announced. In this year, 1882, is found on the records of the Society the first distinct reference to the question of the erection of a more commodious Masonic building in Pittsburgh. But is is evident, as is shown by other sources of information on this subject, that the matter had been the subject of serious consideration for some years prior to 1882. In fact, the brethren had frequently urged, in an informal manner, the Masonic Fund Society to take official action in the matter. But the Trustees were cautious Masons and they knew that would be an undertaking involving a large sum of money. They felt that the time had not yet arrived when the assumption of so heavy a financial burden could be risked. They willingly recognized the need for a larger home for the Bodies, and they agreed that a new building would have to come before many years. But it was a question that grew more insistent, by reason of the steady growth of the Masonic Fraternity in Pittsburgh and the lack of sufficient space in the structure they then occupied. Already in 1873 the Scottish Rite Bodies, being seriously handicapped for space, had removed from the Fifth avenue Hall and were occupying a building known as Library Hall, still standing on Penn avenue near Federal street. It was then suggested by the Trustees that something might be done in the way of securing more room by remodeling the old Hall. With this plan in view, Brother Charles C. Baer offered the following resolution at a meeting of the Trustees held December 4, 1882:

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees be authorized to expend a sufficient amount of money, not exceeding five hundred dollars, to

ascertain whether the present Hall Building can be remodeled, or a new building constructed, so as to accommodate all the Masonic Bodies in this city.

The resolution was adopted, but no further action was taken that year, and the stockholders kept the old Board in for the year 1883. To fill the vacancy caused by the death of Brother William P. Thompson, the stockholders elected Brother Geter Crosby Shidle, the second of that name and family to become a trustee. He was a son of the James Shidle who died in January, 1879, and a Mason held in the highest esteem by his brethren. He had been appointed D. D. Grand Master in 1882 and was a member and past master of Milnor Lodge, No. 287. The Trustees declared a 12 per cent. dividend in December and the stockholders re-elected them all for service during 1884. In this year the question of erecting a new Hall or enlarging the old one became more insistent. All the Masonic Bodies then in extence in Pittsburgh could not find accommodations in the Fifth avenue building, and when the trustees met on February, 1884, the session was attended by a committee of the brethren, representing the Scottish Rite, who formally brought the matter before the Board. The record of this meeting is as follows:

A committee consisting of Messrs. Sam'l Harper, Benj. Darlington and Geo. Balmain, representing Gourgas Grand Lodge of Perfection, appeared before the Trustees for conference in relation to providing accommodation for the Bodies of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Pittsburgh, in the same building with the other Masonic Bodies of this city.

The question of a new Masonic Temple was very generally discussed; when, on motion, it was resolved to defer action for the present.

So this matter was left in abeyance; although the question was further urged and discussed in a circular letter sent out by some of the Blue Lodges, in which a proposition was made that a general committee of the local Masons should meet in Masonic Hall, January 29, 1885, "to consider the feasibility of the Society erecting a new Masonic Temple." But this meeting never took place. The usual 12 per cent dividend was announced at the end of 1884 and the Board was reelected by the stockholders for 1885. Accustomed as we are these days to so many con-

veniences, it will perhaps be read with surprise that it was not until the year 1885 that the Masonic Hall, erected in 1851, was heated by means of natural gas. But the big glowing stoves of the earlier period were comforting and efficient heat producers, and coal was abundant and cheap. But the gas came in at last, as we are informed by the following careful entry:

> On motion of Mr. McCandless, resolved, that it be left discretionary with the Hall Committee to introduce for heating purposes natural gas.

The next year electricity was used for the first time to light the building. The Board wound up its business for 1885 by declaring in November the usual 12 per cent. dividend, and the stockholders re-elected the entire seven to serve through 1886. The minutes of the Board this year deal only with rentals and improvements to the Masonic building, including the proposition to put in an elevator. The Board was re-elected for the twelve months of 1887. The minutes of the Society during the early part of this year show that the movement among the brethren for a new hall, or at least a larger one, was being more earnestly backed up. At a meeting held March 1 a contract was let for the erection of an elevator in the building and for making important changes in the interior of the structure, including the placing of a convenient fire escape. It is indeed probable that by the end of this year some decisive steps would have been taken towards the formulation of a plan for either a new structure or the enlargement, if possible, of the one then in use.

But neither any plan for a new structure nor any of the projected improvements mentioned above were carried into effect; and never again did the Board of Trustees meet in that Fifth Avenue Masonic Hall after their session of July 8, 1887. Their next regular meeting was fixed for August 2, but for some unknown reason there was not a quorum present.

Ten days later the Masonic Hall was totally destroyed by fire.

On the evening of Friday, August 12, 1887, the famous old structure which had stood, an ornament to the city, for a period of thirty-seven years, and about which had be-

come clustered so many treasured Masonic memories, crumbled into ruins. It was a great loss to the Masons. But unlike the destruction of the little Masonic building in the great conflagration of 1845, it was not a calamity. From a financial standpoint the burning of the hall in 1887 did not involve a burden. The real loss came from the destruction of treasured lodge charters, records and other property. These were gone, of course, and some of them could not be replaced. But upon the building itself there was an insurance which almost covered the loss, and the question of raising the necessary funds with which to erect another and better building was one which, in fact, did not cause the brethren generally, nor the Board of Trustees in particular, any worry. The Craft in Pittsburgh was then strong and influential. It had at its head some of the best business men and financiers in the community; and it is not improbable that there was a feeling of satisfaction over the fact that now at last the new and more commodious Hall was to come soon. Nevertheless, the brethren witnessed the destruction of their building with sincere regret, and they made heroic efforts to save property and records. The flames were first noticed about 9 o'clock in the evening, the fire having started in the basement of the building. This basement was used by Campbell & Dick, merchants, who occupied, as tenants of the Hall, the large store room fronting on Fifth avenue, which formerly had been the famous "Concert room." The brave work of the firemen prevented an extensive spread of the flames, and the chief loss in property was the destruction of the Masonic edifice and the Hamiliton building adjoining, then the highest building in the city. Including the building, the furniture and the property of the Masonic Bodies which met in the Hall, the financial loss to the fraternity was about $65,000.

Reporting the destruction of the Hall to the Grand Lodge, the R. W. Grand Master, Brother Joseph Eichman, himself a citizen of Pittsburgh, said at the Annual Communication in December, 1887:

On the night of August 12, 1887, a disastrous fire occurred in Pittsburgh, which involved the destruction of the Masonic Hall, in

which a number of Lodges met. Some of the lodges lost all of their property, including their Warrants, and it became necessary to issue Dispensations to five of them to enable them to continue their labors.

A Pittsburgh newspaper describing the ruins the day after the fire, said: "A glance at the walls of the Masonic Hall is all that is necessary to convince anyone that all that is left of the structure will have to be entirely torn down." And, of course, that was what had to be done. The flames had left nothing but blackened and swaying walls.

Another great chapter in the history of Pittsburgh Masonry had closed.

It is with mingled emotions of pride and regret that we close here this recital of the many events connected with the past of the old structure, and take a retrospective glance back through the years to that bright day of the Fourth of July, 1851, when the devoted and zealous Brother Hailman, then D. D. Grand Master, and the R. W. Grand Master William Whitney, presided over the impressive ceremonies which marked the laying of the corner stone of the edifice, now in 1887 in ruins. It had been a memorable hour of triumph for those early brethren of the Craft, and with justified pride and pleasure Brother Hailman could well say, as he then did say, addressing directly his fellow members of the Board of Trustees:

Brethren of the Masonic Fund Society—Permit me to congratulate you upon the event which has just been consummated. Well may you rejoice, my brethren, upon this occasion; well may you indulge in bright anticipations of the happy success of your undertaking.

That "happy success" had not failed to materialize amazingly. With steady minds and buoyant hearts the long succession of Trustees had successfully carried out their alloted tasks; and the Trustees for the year 1887 could say with full truth that they, too, would in their turn take up the burden of bringing into existence a new and larger Masonic edifice, thereby increasing and solidifying the interests and the growth of the Craft in their great city.

As for the old Masonic Hall, just destroyed, it can be said that it had become an important feature in the community. Its auditorium, or "Concert room," large for those

days, had long been popular. Its famous opening in 1851 by the renowned Jenny Lind, as a place for public entertainments, has become a legend in the historic annals of Pittsburgh. Shortly after this event the concert room was remodeled under the supervision of that interesting authority on theatrical entertainments whom the local newspapers of the time referred to affectionately as "Old Joe Foster," who had been manager of the ancient Drury theater. During a number of years most of the best theatrical presentations and public lectures were given in the hall and it continued to be a place for high class popular amusements until the Opera house was erected. Thus the old Masonic building, laid in ruins in 1887, had served two good purposes. It had been the headquarters and the home for the local Masonic Bodies, and it had furnished intellectual and recreative entertainment for the people in general.

So we pass on this old Masonic Hall into the realms of history, with salutations of triumph and of regret.

CHAPTER V.

ERECTION AND DEDICATION OF FREEMASON HALL.

Preparations for New Structure After Destruction of Old Hall—Discussion Over and Selection of Site for Second Edifice—Fifth Avenue Location Decided Upon—Plans Selected for Splendid Structure—Stockholders' Meetings—Arrangements Made for Issue of $150,000 of Stock—Architect and Builders Selected—Cost of Erection of New Hall to be $125,700—Arrangements for Large Loan—Corner Stone Placed, Bro. Joseph Eichbaum, R. W. G. M., Officiating—Edifice to be known as "Freemasons Hall"—Imposing Dedication Ceremonies—First Meeting of Trustees in New Hall—Death of James Shidle and Alexander Pollock—First and Only Amendment to Charter—Deaths of James Herdman and Geter C. Shidle—New Adjustment of Issue of Stock—Movement for a Larger Hall Started—Board of Trustees and Stockholders Prepare Plans for Sale of Fifth Avenue Property, Purchase of New Site for Erection of a Temple.

THE famous old Hall on Fifth avenue having, as we have seen, been totally destroyed by fire in August, 1887, the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society lost no time in proceeding to the business of providing for the erection of a more commodious and imposing edifice. There was no opposition to this project. Instead, there developed a most hearty cooperation on the part of the Pittsburgh brethren generally. They realized that at last they were to have a Hall which should be much larger than the former one, better adapted to the growing needs of the Craft, and wherein all the Bodies might find ample and elegant accommodations. The Scottish Rite Bodies were particularly desirous of removing from their meeting place in Library Hall on Penn avenue to a building erected by Masons and designed especially for the presentation of Masonic work. There was, therefore, a fine spirit of unanimity of desire and action prevalent among the local Craft, and the Trustees felt no hesitancy in starting as quickly as possible the work that should bring into existence a new Masonic edifice, worthy of the great Fraternity and an ornament to the city.

But first the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society had to take up the matter of securing a meeting place for the

Masonic Bodies which had occupied the old Hall. Brother Geter C. Shidle, one of the Trustees, was then also D. D. Grand Master, and he and the Board acted in hearty accord. On the next evening after the conflagration, which had occurred on August 12, they met, and among the first matters attended to was a proposition to secure legal advice as to the question of the location of the proposed structure. Brother Pollock, then secretary of the Board of Trustees, has fortunately left on record details of this and subsequent gatherings at which important affairs relative to the matters then in hand were considered. His minutes of this meeting held August 13, the first after the destruction of the Hall, are as follows:

Saturday, Pittsburgh, August 13, 1887.

A special meeting of the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society was held at 8 o'clock, P. M., at 403 Smithfield st. Present, Messrs. Herdman, Baer, Oliver, McCandless, Shidle and Glass, President. A communication from Trustees of A. & A. Rite tendering the use of their room for the use of the Lodges, temporarily rendered necessary by the burning of the Hall, 5th Ave., on Friday night, 12th inst. The fire totally destroyed the Hall. A notice was communicated by the Building Inspector directing us to secure the walls of the Hall. Mr. C. Baer was directed to see Mr. Chambers in regard to the walls. Messrs. Sam'l Harper & Geo. W. Guthrie were selected to examine our Charter and determine our authority relative to the erection of a new Hall.

Brother Shidle then, as D. D. Grand Master, inserted in the newspapers a call for a meeting of lodge officers, but which was attended by the brethren in general, the notice appearing in the papers, on August 15, as follows:

The W. Masters and Wardens of the Lodges that occupied the Temple, Fifth Avenue, are requested to meet on Tuesday evening at 419 Wood street, second floor, 7:30 P. M. A full attendance is requested.

By Order of G. C. Shidle,
D. D. G. M., Twenty-eighth District.

This meeting was largely attended, plans were discussed for the future, and the Trustees were able to announce that they had rented the Renshaw building for the term of one year, wherein the Masonic Bodies would be able to meet just as soon as the necessary modifications in the building could be made. The structure, used for commercial purposes, stood and still stands at the corner of Liberty ave-

nue and Ninth street. This location was convenient. The building had been secured by the Hall Committee of the Board of Trustees, Brothers Herdman, Shidle and Baer, who the day after the fire began a search for a meeting place for the lodges. They were thus in position to report to the brethren at the meeting of August 15 that a new home had been found. Accordingly, with great haste the third story of the Renshaw building was remodelled for Masonic purposes. So rapidly and effectively was this work carried on that the lodges met there in the second week of the following September. An interesting record is left of the action of the Board relative to the rental of the third floor of the Renshaw property, at a meeting held October 4, 1887, as follows:

> On motion, it was resolved that it is the understanding that the Trustees in fitting up the Renshaw building, do it for the benefit of the Lodges, and that the Lodges pay the amount of the expense for the same; and that the rents are to be so proportioned as to cover the expense of fitting up and the cost of keeping up the rooms; and it is further to be understood that the income from the Lodges in the Renshaw building is in no way to be considered as revenue for the general stockholders.

The first meeting of the Trustees after the fire was convened an hour or so before the general gathering of the brethren, called by D. D. G. M. Shidle for the evening of August 15. This first session of the Trustees which was held at the office of Brother McCandless on Fourth avenue, was attended by Brothers Herdman, Baer, McCandless, Shidle, Pollock and Oliver. President Glass being absent, his place was filled by Brother Shidle. Various matters were discussed and the Hall committee was directed to arrange for the removal of the ruins on Fifth avenue. The next gathering of the Trustees was on the evening of August 23, in the office of Brother McCandless, of which this record has been left:

> Present, Messrs. Herdman, Shidle, Pollock, Baer and Glass, President. The Hall Committee reported that they had rented a Hall for the use of the Masonic bodies, for temporary use, for one year and seven months, with the privilege of one year more, from Mr. Renshaw, corner of 9th & Liberty Sts., for the annual rent of Eight Hundred Dollars; he to provide heat, light and water. The Society

to fit up the room to suit their purposes. On motion, the report was adopted.

On motion, the proposition of Mr. Egan to tear down the walls of the burned Hall and clear away all the rubbish for the sum of $2,000 was adopted.

Later the above amount for clearing away the debris was reduced to $1,750. By the second week in September all the Bodies formerly in the old Hall were quartered in the Renshaw building. To the lodges which had lost their Warrants new ones were given by the Grand Lodge and all the Bodies quickly replaced their burned property and jewels.

The Masons being now settled in their new quarters, where also the Board of Trustees met, the absorbing question then was not, "Shall we build a Hall?" but "Where shall we build the Hall?" There was, in fact, no question at all as to the construction of another Masonic edifice, but the problem was over the selection of a location. There were conflicting opinions and preferences as to this point. However, as is shown by action taken at subsequent meetings of the stockholders, the very general preference among the brethren, favored the erection of a Hall or Temple on the Fifth avenue site, which was, it was contended, large enough and altogether convenient. Another feature of this friendly controversy that influenced the brethren was the argument to the effect that it would probably be necessary to amend the charter of the Masonic Fund Society in order to establish a legal right to build a Hall on any other ground than that then owned by the Masonic Fund Society. In a written opinion covering legal points submitted to them as to the purchase of the property and the interpretation of certain provisions in the Charter of the Masonic Fund Society, Attorneys George W. Guthrie and Samuel Harper, noted lawyers of Pittsburgh, advised that in order to avoid the probable necessity of amending the charter, it would be advisable to erect the proposed Masonic edifice on the Fifth avenue ground. By the beginning of November, 1887, only a few weeks after the disastrous fire, the question of location was practically settled. It was decided to put up the new hall on the site of the old one, and at once to get into conference with architects. This action was authorized at a meeting held November 8, 1887, as this record shows:

On motion, the Hall committee, Messrs. Herdman, Shidle and Baer, were instructed to consult their architects relative to the construction of a new building, on the lot on 5th Ave., to replace the building which was destroyed by fire; they are also directed to write to Mr. Windren, architect, Philadelphia, asking him to come to Pittsburgh and give his opinion on the matter.

Resolved, that a full report of the affairs of the Society be made to the stockholders at the meeting in December.

There was another meeting of the Trustees on November 29 in the brief records of which we find the statement that, "The plans for a new Hall on the ground on 5th Ave. were discussed." Then on December 5, 1887, came the first meeting of the stockholders since the fire in August. It was convened in the Renshaw building, and the chairman was Brother John Dunwoody, of Milnor Lodge, No. 287, Brother A. M. Pollock being secretary. The following is the record:

This being the occasion of the Report of the Trustees, the Report was read by the Secretary, giving full details of the financial condition and progress towards building a new hall. On motion, the report was adopted, and ordered to be filed. The written opinion of the attorneys of the Board, Messrs. Harper and Guthrie, was read by the Secretary, and after full discussion, Mr. W. B. Lupton moved that the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society be authorized to proceed at once with the erection of a suitable building on the site of the old Hall on 5th Ave., which motion was seconded, when Mr. Geo. T. Oliver offered an amendment, that action on the motion of Mr. Lupton be postponed until the first Tuesday in Jan'y, 1888, at 7 o'clock P. M., and that the Trustees be instructed in the meantime to have the architect proceed with the plans of a new building, which amendment was adopted.

The action of Brother Oliver in having the above motion postponed until a subsequent meeting of stockholders, was caused by a desire to show deference to the small minority which was opposing the choice of the old site as the location for a new building. The Board of Trustees had already declared unanimously for the old location, and they had accordingly gone ahead and made some arrangements for the plans of the edifice, doubtless feeling that the vote of the stockholders would be with them. They had not judged wrongly. The adjourned session of stockholders was held the following January 7, in the rooms of the

Americus Club then at No. 417 Wood street. Brother Pollock was secretary, and he has left this record:

The following stockholders were present: Geo. F. McDonald, representing Lodge No. 287; Sam'l Steel, Lodge 253; Matthew M. Felker, Commandery No. 1; Jas. B. Youngson, A. S. Bishop, Lodge 221; W. B. Lupton, Geo. P. Balmain, A. B. Wigley, Theodore Havekotte, McCandless Lodge 390; T. R. Boss, Lodge 484; Rob't Lockhart, Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162; Jos. Eichbaum, Job Ablett, John Dunwoody, Geo. H. Brown, Sam'l Harper, Henry H. Arnold, Stephen C. McCandless, A. M. Pollock, Geo. Glass, Jas. Herdman, Geter C. Shidle, W. G. McCandless, C. C. Baer, George T. Oliver.

Mr. John Dunwoody called the meeting to order, and stated the object of this adjourned meeting to be the consideration of a resolution offered at the meeting, December 5th, 1887, by Mr. W. B. Lupton, "authorizing the trustees to proceed at once with the erection of a suitable building on the site of the old Hall, 5th Avenue, action on which was postponed by a motion made by Mr. Geo. T. Oliver, until Tuesday, Jan'y 3rd, 1888, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

The resolution was read, and also the report of Messrs. Guthrie & Harper, giving their opinion as to the powers of the Trustees under the Charter.

After a full discussion, a vote was taken, which resulted as follows: In favor of the resolution—seventeen votes; against it—nine votes.

This action determined the erection of a new Masonic Hall to be on the site of the old Hall on 5th avenue.

Whatever difference of opinion there had been—and in fact, for a time there was considerable difference of opinion—as to the place on which to put up the new structure it was now ended. The decision of the Board of Trustees in favor of the Fifth avenue lot was formally and effectively confirmed by the stockholders, and from this date on the question did not again rise with any force, until years afterward, when a movement began for the erection of another new Masonic edifice and ended in the selection of the site of the present great Temple. Having decided definitely as to the site, another proposition came up, to the effect that more ground should be acquired in order to enlarge the holdings of the Craft on Fifth avenue, but this proposition was negatived, and no additional ground was ever bought there.

Before the year 1887 ended the stockholders, of course, held their annual December meeting for the election of trustees for the ensuing twelve months. The old Board

was unanimously reelected, being then, for 1888, as follows: George Glass, President; Herdman, Treasurer; Pollock, Secretary; and Brothers William G. McCandless, Geter C. Shidle, Charles C. Baer and George T. Oliver. The Board held its first meeting in 1888 on January 3, and this session is especially important as being the one at which was appointed the first regular Relief Committee, in accordance with the provisions of Art. VI of the Charter, to the effect that when there shall come applications "for relief and assistance for those who come within the true intent, meaning and object of the Society, the said Board, or such of them as are above designated, shall or may disburse to the applicant or applicants such portion of the Society's funds as may be just and proper, in conformity with the wants and necessities of the party to be relieved." This first Relief Committee was made up of the following Trustees: Brothers Glass, Herdman and Pollock, officers of the Board. The creation of this permanent agency through which the Board could carry on its ever increasing work of fraternal helpfulness was certainly an important, as it was also an effective, addition to the factors through which the Trustees realized the great purposes of the Order—to give aid and encouragement whenever they were needed. And in this connection it may properly be said here that at no time has the Board of Trustees confined this noble work of helpfulness to only members of the Masonic Fraternity. Their financial aid has more than once been willingly extended to cases of necessity and to charitable and other institutions outside the Craft.

At this meeting of the Trustees on January 3 Brothers Herdman, Baer and Shidle were named the Hall committee for 1888, a committee which would have important and exacting duties and responsibilities on their hands, now that a new Hall was to be erected. Backed by the stockholders the Trustees then went resolutely ahead with the big task of preparing for the construction of the building. The question of funds was of course one of the first things to be considered, and it was in a general way decided that the cost of the new structure should not exceed $150,000, and, as will be seen further on, it was agreed to issue bonds for

that amount, secured by a mortgage on the Masonic property. Having consulted various architects and builders and examined various tentative plans, the Board in March, 1888, made choice of those offered by Sheply, Rutan & Coolidge of Boston, Mass. The selection was made from numerous plans sent in, each set of plans being designated by special words or marks, without the names of the owners thereon. Thus when the Trustees voted on the choice, they were ignorant of the names of the architects who had submitted the various sets of plans. The unanimous choice fell to the Boston architects. The firm of Sheply, Rutan & Coolidge was at this time well known in Pittsburgh. There were the successors as architects of that celebrated genius, Henry Hobson Richardson, in the construction of the present Allegheny County court house, which from an architectural standpoint is considered to be one of the noted edifices in the world. Mr. Richardson had died in the year 1888, and his great creation was finished by the Boston architects. The design for the new Masonic Hall called for only a six story structure, but by reason of the great height of each story the building when completed towered over every other building then on Fifth avenue.

Having thus adopted the plans and chosen their architects, the Trustees proceeded to advertise for bids for the construction of the Hall. The successful bidder proved to be Charles A. Balf, of Pittsburgh. This choice was made at the opening of bids tendered at a meeting held June 23, of which this is the record:

> Resolved, that the bid of C. A. Balf, offering to erect the building of red sandstone for One Hundred and twenty-five Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars, ($125,700), be accepted, subject to a bond of One Hundred Thousand Dollars ($100,000), with two or more sureties; and forfeiture of Seventy-five dollars ($75.00) per day for not completing within the limited time. Unanimously adopted.

Although there is no mention in the minutes of the Society prior to July 10, 1888, as to the manner of securing funds for the construction of a Hall, it is evident, from subsequent records, that the details had been completed of a plan by which the trustees should procure $150,000 by an issue of bonds to that amount, secured by a mortgage on the Masonic property. Then at the request of the Trustees,

a stockholders meeting assembled on July 10, for the purpose of confirming the plans adopted by the Board. They had, prior to this session, sent out among the brethren the details of this plan in the form of a circular, of which the following is an exact copy:

Pittsburgh, July 1st, 1888.

The Masonic Fund Society is about to construct a new building to replace the Hall destroyed by fire last summer. The contract has been let, and the building will be ready for occupancy in something less than a year from this date. The building proper is to cost $125,700, and is estimated that about $25,000 more will be required to complete and furnish it, making the total expenditure about $150,000. To raise this sum, the Trustes have determined to issue bonds to the extent of $150,000, secured by a mortgage on the property of the Society. The bonds will be dated October 1st, 1888, will be payable in 20 years after date, and bear interest, payable semi-annually, at the rate of four per cent. per annum. They will be issued in denominations of $1,000 and $500, to suit subscribers.

It is not anticipated that the entire amount of $150,000 will be required, but the Trustees think it best to provide for that sum, to guard against all possible contingencies. They will only issue, however, the amount actually required. When the building is completed and paid for, all unissued bonds will be cancelled.

We have been assured that all the bonds can be placed with one party; but the Trustees think it is due to the different Bodies meeting in the Hall, as well as to the members of the Fraternity, to give them an opportunity of subscribing for such amounts as they see proper. They, therefore, invite subscriptions from any Mason or Masonic Body up to the 1st day of September next, after which date all bonds not subscribed for will be disposed of in the market. It is earnestly requested that subscriptions be sent in as early as possible to the undersigned, No. 91 Wylie avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Fraternally,

A. M. Pollock,
Secretary.

To accept this plan formally a stockholders meeting was held July 10 in the Masonic rooms in the Renshaw building, and the chairman of that gathering was Brother Joseph Eichbaum, of Pittsburgh, who was then the R. W. Grand Master of the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania. Brother Pollock acted as secretary, and the record left by him of this meeting is of particular interest, as it gives the names of the stockholders who were present. The record is:

The Secretary read the following Resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, that the Trustees be and they are hereby authorized to borrow a sum of money not exceeding One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars for the purpose of erecting a building on the property of the Society on Fifth Avenue, in the City of Pittsburgh; that for that purpose they issue coupon bonds in one or more series, payable in not exceeding twenty-five years, of such denomination or denominations and at such a rate of interest not exceeding six per cent. per annum, as they may determine, and that they grant a mortgage to such person as they may select as Trustee, upon the property and franchises of the Society, to secure the payment of the same."

The following stockholders were present:
Thomas R. Boss, representing Pittsburgh Lodge No. 484.
Alfred S. Bishop, representing Franklin Lodge No. 221.
Theodore Havekotte, representing McCandless Lodge No. 390.
George T. Oliver.
Robert Lockhart, representing Zerubbabel Chapter No. 162.
Samuel H. Steele, representing Washington Lodge No. 253.
John Dunlevy.
Geter C. Shidle.
George F. MacDonald, representing Milnor Lodge No. 287.
Charles C. Baer.
George Glass.
William B. Lupton.
Joseph Eichbaum.
Samuel Harper.
A. M. Pollock.
William Black, representing Allegheny Lodge No. 223.
Job Ablett, representing Dallas Lodge No. 508.

The Trustees then met on July 28 to put into effect the plan as given in the above quoted minutes of the stockholders' meeting. They selected the Fidelity Title & Trust Company, of Pittsburgh, as trustee of bonds amounting to $150,000, and executed in favor of that corporation a mortgage on the Masonic property on Fifth avenue. After this financial arrangement was completed, there never came to the Society any pressing trouble about money to carry to the end the work of putting up the building. The next matter to which they had to turn their attention was the formal laying of the corner stone. The first record of this transaction is found in the minutes of a meeting held by the trustees July 3, 1888, at which this action was taken:

Resolved, that an invitation be extended to Joseph Eichbaum, R. W. Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania, to lay the Corner Stone of the Free Masons' Hall, with appropriate Masonic ceremonies, on the anniversary of the burning of the old Hall, August 12th, 1888;

and that Messrs. Shidle and Baer be appointed a committee to make the necessary arrangements.

Further action concerning the new Hall was taken at the trustees meeting of July 28, when it was, "Resolved, that the motto to be placed on the new Hall be FREE-MASONS' HALL, and that the architect be notified of the same." It was under this significant designation that this Hall was always known until it was disposed of by sale in the year 1914. At this same session, July 28, it was resolved, "on motion of Mr. A. M. Pollock, that Mr. George Oliver be requested to deliver an address at the laying of the Corner Stone." But Brother Oliver was then in Europe, and having been apprised of his selection as orator, sent a cablegram from London, saying that he would not be back in time to attend the ceremony. The Board then designated the eloquent George W. Guthrie "to perform that duty."

For some reason not given in the records, at a meeting held August 7, the date of the laying of the corner stone, which had been fixed for September 12, which was the anniversary date of the destruction of the old Hall in 1887, was changed to Tuesday, September 11, and on that day the impressive event took place. It was an important day in the city of Pittsburgh, and Fifth avenue was packed with people who desired to witness the ceremonies. Due to the wise foresight and admirable diligence of Brother A. M. Pollock, secretary of the Board of Trustees at that time, we are able to present here a notably complete and interesting report of the proceedings. This recital of the events of the day, with the names of so many members of the Craft, is set down by Brother Pollock as the report of the "Committee to whom was referred the arrangements for laying the corner stone of the new Free Masons' Hall, 5th Ave.," and is as follows:

Agreeably to the request made by the Trustees, the R. W. Grand Master, Joseph Eichbaum, Esq., assisted by the other Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, conducted the ceremonies, and at high noon, Sept. 11th, 1888, the copper box containing the following articles was placed in the niche by Brother Thomas R. Patton, Grand Treasurer. The R. W. Grand Master, after the usual ceremonies, proclaimed the Corner Stone duly laid. Bro. George W. Guthrie delivered the address, which was full of fraternal sympathy, abounding in

reminiscences, and held the closest attention of the great crowd of brethren in attendance.

The Grand Officers officiating were as follows:

Joseph Eichbaum, R. W. Grand Master,
Clifford P. MacCalla, R. W. Deputy Grand Master,
J. Simpson Africa, R. W. S. Grand Warden,
Michael Arnold, R. W. J. Grand Warden,
Thomas R. Patton, R. W. Grand Treasurer,
Michael Nisbett, R. W. Grand Secretary,
David A. Stevenson, Lodge 45, Assistant Grand Secretary,
Stephen S. McCandless, Lodge No. 287, Senior Grand Deacon,
William Mazer, Lodge No. 231, Junior Grand Deacon,
Richard H. Allen, D. D., Grand Chaplain,
Joseph E. Lewis, Lodge No. 390, Grand Steward,
William McConway, Lodge No. 484, Grand Steward,
Thomas J. Hudson, Grand Marshal,
John D. Kramer, Lodge No. 318, Grand Sword Bearer,
William S. Bell, Lodge No. 544, Grand Pursuivant,
William A. Sinn, Grand Tyler,
Geter C. Shidle, D. D. G. M., 28th District,
James S. McKean, D. D. G. M., 32nd District,
Matthias H. Henderson, D. D. G. M., 26th District,
William B. Meredith, D. D. G. M., 27th District,
George W. Guthrie, Lodge No. 221, Orator.

The lodges in the line of procession, headed by their Worshipful Masters, were as follows:

			W. M.
Corinthian	Lodge, No.	573	Alexander M. Johnston
Meyersdale	" "	554	Kennedy Price
Duquesne	" "	546	Henry Moseley
Centennial	" "	544	Robert J. Hardy
Oakland	" "	535	John Rebman
John W. Jenks	" "	534	James A. Minish
Ionic	" "	525	Walter Lyon
Guyasuta	" "	513	William Kiefer
Braddock Field	" "	510	Alexander Shank
Germania	" "	509	Theodore Hartung
Dallas	" "	508	Job Ablett
Pollock	" "	502	Alexander C. Boyd
Pittsburgh	" "	484	Thomas R. Boss
Zeradatha	" "	448	Alexander Martin
Stuckrath	" "	430	Thomas B. Alcorn
McCandless	" "	390	John D. Littell
Davage	" "	374	James Baker
Hailman	" "	321	Presley N. Guthrie
McKinley	" "	318	Edwin S. Craig
Jefferson	" "	288	Andrew J. Kirschner
Milnor	" "	287	George F. MacDonald
Monongahela	" "	269	William T. English
Washington	" "	253	Samuel A. Steele
Solomon	" "	231	John Eckhardt
Franklin	" "	221	Alfred S. Bishop
St. John's	" "	219	Henry H. Arnold
Lodge 45	" "	45	Harry D. W. English.

Continuing his report of the ceremonies, Brother Pollock says:

It is estimated that no less than 2,000 brethren were in line. The very fine vocal music rendered by the male members of the Mozart Club, under the direction of their leader, Professor William H. Slack, added greatly to the success of the ceremonies. The articles deposited in the Corner Stone were as follows: The Holy Bible, The Ahimen Rezon, The Plate which was taken from the Corner Stone of the Masonic Building of 1850, which building was destroyed by the fire August 12, 1887, having stamped upon it as follows.

Brother Pollock then gives the inscription on the Plate that was on it when it was placed in the corner stone of the Hall built in 1851. When the plate was placed in the stone September 11, 1888, it bore this additional inscription on the reverse side:

This Plate was taken from the Corner Stone of the Masonic Building Destroyed by Fire August 12th, 1887, A. L. 5887.

A. D. 1888 A. L. 5888

The Corner Stone of this Free Masons Hall Erected by the Masonic Fund Society, was laid on the 11th day of September, in the 112th year of American Independence, by Joseph Eichbaum, Grand Master of Masons for the State of Pennsylvania.

Board of Trustees:
Geo. Glass, President
James Hailman, Treasurer
A. M. Pollock, M. D., Secretary
Wm. G. McCandless
Geter C. Shidle
George T. Oliver
Charles C. Baer.

Sheply, Rutan & Coolidge, Boston, Mass., Architects.
Charles A. Balf, Builder.

Brother Pollock then makes note in his report that the following articles removed from the old 1850 Corner Stone were placed in that of 1888: One silver dollar, one half dollar, one quarter dollar, one five cent piece, one dime and four copper pennies. To these were added the following coins of the issue of the year 1888: One silver dollar, one ten cent piece, one copper cent, one nickel five cent piece. In addition to articles thus far mentioned, there were deposited in the Corner Stone the following: A badge of the Masonic Veterans Association of Pennsylvania, and medals or emblems from all the Masonic bodies meeting in Allegheny county;

a copy of the ceremonies of the laying of the corner stone in 1888, and various publications.

Thus amidst the rejoicing of the brethren and with due and solemn ceremonies the Corner Stone was set in place for another Masonic structure in Pittsburgh. The event was appreciatively noted by the R. W. Grand Master Joseph Eichbaum in an address at the annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge held December 27, 1888, when he said:

> On September 11 I laid the corner stone of Freemasons Hall, on Fifth avenue, Pittsburgh, assisted by the elective Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge and the appointed Grand Officers from the western portion of the jurisdiction. The occasion was one to be remembered. More than two thousand brethren were in the procession, nearly all from Allegheny county, and it is safe to say that nothing has occurred in Pittsburgh that has elicited such general approval as that ceremonial. The building is now up to the sixth and last story, and has undoubtedly the most handsome frontage of any building in the city.

With the corner stone thus duly put in place, the trustees gave all the time they could spare from other necessary labors and duties to hastening the completion of the new edifice. In fact, the records of their meetings throughout the remainder of the year 1888 contain little else than references to the numerous and exacting details consequent upon the construction of the Hall. On December 27 the stockholders met as usual to elect trustees for the next year, and not having in those days any regular place in which to get together, they convened this time in the office of the City Fire Marshal then at No. 100 Fourth avenue. They reelected the entire Board and the Board again chose Brother Glass for President, Herdman for Treasurer and Pollock for Secretary. By January, 1889, it was seen that the building would be completed within the required time, and it was, in consequence, decided not to extend the lease of the rooms in the Renshaw building. The Trustees then took up the question of rentals for their new structure, and at a meeting held February 5 the following rents were agreed upon for the occupancy of lodge rooms in the Hall by Masonic Bodies: The rent to be paid by Blue Lodges was, each, $300 per year, with special meetings at $15;

Chapters, each, $300, special meetings $20; Council $200; Commanderies, $600; Consistory, $1,800.

Very few references are made in the minutes at this period of the disposal of bonds. But that was a matter causing no concern to the Trustees. They sold them as they needed the money, as is indicated by the brief mention in the minutes of a meeting on February 5, to the effect that "the bonds in the hands of the secretary be sold to the Dollar Savings Bank, at par, from time to time, as required to meet the indebtedness of the Society." By the middle of April, 1889, the fine structure was practically completed and the subject of dedication began to be considered. At a meeting on May 7 the date of June 24, 1889, was selected as the day upon which the new Hall should be formally dedicated, and the secretary of the Board of Trustees was instructed to invite the R. W. Grand Master, Brother Clifford P. MacCalla, to officiate.

In the meantime, that venerable Masonic Body, Lodge 45 of Pittsburgh, mindful of what was due to its dignity as the most ancient Blue Lodge in Western Pennsylvania, sent to the Trustees a request that their Lodge be granted "the high honor and privilege of holding the first meeting in the Masonic Hall, Fifth avenue, now nearing completion." The Board took up the request at a meeting held March 5, granted the prayer of the Lodge, and named Brothers Glass, Shidle, Oliver and Baer as a special committee to attend to the matter. They sent through Secretary Pollock, a communication to Lodge 45, informing them that their request would be granted, but the discouraging information was added that "it is not expected that the Hall will be in condition to occupy in April." But Lodge 45 desired to hold their regular April meeting in the new edifice. It was then decided that at least one room, the smallest, should be prepared by that date, and it was suggested by the special committee that "as it was fit and proper that 'Old 45' should be the first to occupy the new building," the matter could be arranged if the brethren of Lodge 45 would be satisfied to hold a special meeting for work in the small room on April 3, and thus they would be given "the great honor of holding the first meeting in the new building after its com-

pletion and dedication June 24th, 1889." Lodge 45 accepted this arrangement, and got up quite a programme for the occasion, their meeting being held in the small room April 3, 1889. There were 93 members present and 191 visitors. They had speeches and songs, and the three degrees were conferred on candidates by Brother Geter C. Shidle, D. D. Grand Master; by Bro. Joseph P. Andrews, P. M. of Lodge 45, and by Brother A. B. Rutledge, W. M. of the same lodge. The Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society were all present and among the other visitors were Brothers Samuel Harper and Lee S. Smith.

In the meantime preparations were being completed for the dedication ceremonies in June. But the pleasant anticipations of the event were overclouded by the death, prior to the dedication, of two illustrious Pittsburgh Masons, Brother Geter Crosby Shidle, one of the Trustees, and Brother Samuel Harper. The latter died on May 15, 1889, and by his death the community lost a noble citizen and the Masonic fraternity an accomplished, influential and devoted brother. Two weeks later, on June 11, and just two weeks prior to the dedication of the new Hall, came the sad announcement of the demise of that illustrious and beloved pillar of the Craft, Brother Shidle. He had breathed his last at Atlantic City, where he had gone for the benefit of his fast failing health. The demise of this noted Mason was profoundly mourned. He had become a member of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society after the death of his father, James Shidle, and his advice and work in that body had been of inestimable value. He was D. D. G. M. at the time of his death and had long been prominent in the various Masonic bodies. At a meeting of the Trustees June 15 Brothers Oliver and Pollock were named as a committee to draw up memorial resolutions.

The last session of the trustees prior to the day of the dedication was held June 15, but neither in the minutes of that meeting nor in those of any subsequent meeting is to be found one word in reference to the interesting and impressive ceremonies which marked the transfer of the elegant structure from the hands of the builders to the control of the Fraternity. Brother Pollock, as secretary of

FREEMASON'S HALL.
Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Corner Stone Placed September 11, 1888.

the Board of Trustees, left, as we have seen, an admirable and ample description of the ceremonies attendant upon the laying of the Corner Stone of the year before, but of the final dedication he wrote down never a word. Happily the local newspapers were not so reticent, and we can have recourse to their columns for the necessary information. Brother Clifford P. MacCalla had succeeded Brother Joseph Eichbaum as R. W. Grand Master, and he and a large number of Grand Lodge officers came to Pittsburgh to take part in the ceremonies. Hundreds of the fraternity from other places came also. The new Hall, a really splendid structure, attracted great attention, and after the dedication was over thousands of people passed through it, loud in their praises of the imposing exterior and the elegance of the interior of the building. The ceremonies took place at high noon on Monday, June 24, 1889, which was St. John's Day. In its description of the proceedings the Pittsburgh "Post" of date of June 25, 1889, says:

Masonic Temple of Pittsburgh dedicated yesterday typifies the Order. Its structure is all that could be desired by the public, as well as by the Craft. The exterior of the edifice is a thing of beauty. The interior is elaborate in its architectural proportions, its adornments and its adequate adaptations. The dedicatory ceremonies were conducted strictly according to the exalted ritual by Clifford P. MacCalla, Grand Master of Pennsylvania Masons. Strewing the corn, sprinkling the wine and pouring oil over the Hall, he thus devoted the structure, respectively, first, to Freemasonry; second, to Virtue and Science, and third, to Universal Benevolence. The Grand Lodge officers assisting him were, Hon. Richard Vaux, R. W. P. Grand Master; J. Simpson Africa, R. W. D. Grand Master; Michael Nesbit, Grand Secretary; Thomas R. Patton, Grand Treasurer; William A. Sinn, Grand Tyler; Edwin S. Stewart, Grand Marshal; Charles C. Baer, S. G. W.; M. H. Henderson, J. G. W.; Charles W. Batchelor, S. G. D.; James W. Brown, J. G. D.; John D. Kramer, Grand Sword Bearer; W. J. Carson, and Henry H. Arnold, Grand Stewards.

Hon. Richard Vaux, ex-mayor of Philadelphia, R. W. P. G. M., delivered the dedicatory address.

The exterior of this new Hall, with its commanding brown stone front, presents a fine appearance. The interior, which includes commodious store rooms on the first floor, has six stories. The third, fourth, fifth and sixth stories are exclusively devoted to Masonic purposes. On the third floor, reached by an elevator, is a large reception room, with all the adornments the heart of a Mason could desire—the richest brussels carpet, harmonizing in color with the

antique oak furniture. Passing from this chamber to an ante-room, the main lodge room is entered. This is 40x70 feet, and is resplendent with the finest mouquette carpets, draperies, walnut furniture and glittering chandeliers, and it is surrounded by other adequate anterooms. The fourth floor will be furnished with mahogany furniture and other accessories to correspond. On the fifth floor is the banquet hall with a comfortable seating capacity of 350 persons. The sixth floor will be devoted to the Scottish Rite Bodies, the main floor of this sixth story being 40x70 feet, and is also surrounded by galleries. A $5,000 pipe organ will be located here, and it will be of the most perfect type.

After the dedication ceremonies were over and the crowds of people who thronged the edifice had retired, a proceeding which used up all that was left of the daytime, there was a notable reception held in the evening in the new Hall to the Grand Master and the Grand Officers. The Grand Officers were received with honors, a Grand Lodge was constituted, and a notable programme of addresses and music followed. Speaking at this gathering, on behalf of the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society, Brother George T. Oliver, one of the Trustees, called attention to the diligent and effective work of the trustees in erecting the new Hall, and at the conclusion of his address he said:

And now, Worshipful Master, to you and to the brethren here assembled, and to all Masonic Bodies who in time to come may choose it for their place of meeting, I present this house, which has this day been dedicated to the service of our Fraternity.

A brilliant address was delivered by Brother George W. Guthrie, in the course of which he said:

The Masonic brethren residing in the city of Pittsburgh have requested me to congratulate the Masonic Fund Society on the completion of their work, and to extend to them our hearty thanks for the beautiful home which they have provided for us. The deep foundation, massive walls and graceful lines stand before the world as a fit emblem of the permanence, strength and beauty of our Craft. It is with pleasure that the Craft accepts the building so wisely planned and so skilfully executed.

Words of eulogy were also uttered later by the R. W. Grand Master Clifford P. MacCalla at the Grand Communication held December 27, 1889, when he said:

On Saturday, June 22, accompanied by the Grand Officers, I visited Pittsburgh, and on the following Monday, being St. John the Baptist's Day, June 24, at High Twelve, I dedicated the new Freemasons Hall, Pittsburgh, which takes the place of the one destroyed

by fire August 12, 1887. The ceremonies were deeply impressive, and an able and eloquent oration was delivered by Past Grand Master Richard Vaux. The corner stone of this Hall was laid on September 12, 1888, by Grand Master Eichbaum. It is an ornate edifice, its Masonic appointments are complete and it is a credit to the energy and artistic taste of the Pittsburgh brethren.

Was it by design, or was it only a coincidence, that the Board of Trustees selected Monday, St. John's Day, June 24, 1889, as the date for the dedication of their splendid new Hall?

If it was only a coincidence, and apparently it was such, it was an extremely interesting and significant one. For on that same day of the week and the same month and on St. John's Day, seventy-eight years before, in the year 1811, the little band of brethren then nobly sustaining the pillars of Masonry in the scattered small town between the Allegheny and the Monongahela rivers, dedicated with earnest deportment and solemn ceremonies to high Masonic uses the first property owned by the Masons in Allegheny county. In Pittsburgh on Wood street, exactly fifty feet from Fifth avenue, where now stands an imposing bank structure and where immense throngs of people swirl past each hour of the day, those pioneer brethren of Lodge 45 and of that ancient, but no longer living Ohio Lodge, No. 113, gathered on Monday, June 24, 1811, St. John's Day, and devoted their small building erected on the lot they had purchased, to the uses of the Masonic Craft. And for twenty years that tiny place was known as Masonic Hall.

As expeditiously as possible the various Masonic Bodies within the limits of the city began to hold their meetings in the new edifice. The first users of the Hall were Lodge 45, St. John's Lodge No. 219; Franklin Lodge, No. 221; Solomon Lodge, No. 231; McCandless Lodge, No. 390; Pittsburgh Lodge, No. 484; Dallas Lodge, No. 508; Oakland Lodge, No. 535; Zerubabbel Chapter, No. 162; Duquesne Chapter, No. 193; Shiloh Chapter, No. 257. Mt. Moriah Council; Pittsburgh Commandery, No. 1; Tancred Commandery, No. 48; Ascalon Commandery, No. 59; the Scottish Rite Bodies and the School of Instruction. The first reunion of the Scottish Rite in the new edifice was held November 19, 20 and 21,

1889. In the programme of that reunion is the following interesting announcement:

From June 16, 1852, to April 1, 1873, the meetings of the Scottish Bodies were held in Masonic Hall, Fifth avenue; but the facilities there were so inadequate that in September, 1872, rooms were secured and fitted up in Library Hall building, Penn avenue, where the meetings were held from April 1, 1873, to October 1, 1889.

The last meeting in Masonic Hall, Fifth avenue, at which the degrees were conferred was held on November 29, 1872; and now, after a period of seventeen years, we will again meet to confer the degrees in Masonic Hall, (now called Freemasons Hall), Fifth avenue, where the Bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Rite were organized and held their first meeting.

This reunion and the place we will assemble will awaken in the minds of the older members, memories which they alone can understand and appreciate.

At this time Brother James I. Buchanan, 33°, was Ill. Com. in Chief Penn'a Sov. Gr. Consistory, S. P. R. S.; Brother George W. Guthrie, 33°, was W. M. and P. M. Pittsburgh Gr. Chapter Rose Croix; Brother Charles C. Baer, 33°, was M. E. Sov. P. G. M. Penn'a Gr. Council Princes of Jerusalem; and Brother James Kerr, 33°, T. P. G. M. Gourgas Grand Lodge of Perfection.

The first meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society in the new Freemasons Hall was held August 7, 1889, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and the trustees present were Herdman, McCandless, Oliver, Pollock and Baer. If there were any remarks "special to the occasion," no record of them was made in the minutes. Bills were ordered to be paid and details concerning work on the building were attended to. The stockholders held their initial session in the Hall December 2 of the same year, and at this meeting a resolution was adopted to the effect that "the trustees be recommended to fix the rent for special meetings of the various Bodies occupying the Hall at $10 per night." This recommendation was accepted by the trustees at a session held the next day. At the annual election for trustees to serve during 1890 Brothers Herdman, Pollock, Baer, McCandless and Oliver were again chosen, and two new trustees came into the Board, Brothers William B. Lupton and James W. Brown, these filling the places of Brother Geter C. Shidle, who had died, and Brother George

Glass, who was not a candidate for reelection. Brother Brown was a well known and highly esteemed Mason and a member of the firm of Howe, Brown & Co., steel manufacturers, and had been recently appointed D. D. Grand Master to succeed the late Brother Shidle. He had received the Scottish Rite degrees in 1889, and later became the R. W. Grand Master of Pennsylvania Masons. Brother Lupton was a popular Mason and citizen and prominent in manufacturing and business circles as the head of the firm of W. B. Lupton & Co., dealers in cement and roofing materials. He was a member of Milnor Lodge No. 287.

At its organization for the year 1890 the Board of Trustees chose for president Brother McCandless; for treasurer, Herdman; for secretary, Pollock. Brothers Lupton and Oliver were named as the Hall Committee, and Brother Thomas Graham was continued as janitor, being therefore the first to have charge of the new Hall. The minutes of the meetings of the Board during 1890 are devoted exclusively to matters of routine of no particular historic interest. In December the stockholders reelected the entire Board for 1891. In this year, in December, a dividend of four per cent. was announced. The election for trustees in December, 1891, to serve for the next twelve months resulted in notable changes in the membership of the Board. Only three of the old trustees were retained, Brothers Herdman, Pollock and Baer. The new members of the Board chosen were Theodore Havekotte, who was a well known merchant tailor on Liberty avenue and a member of McCandless Lodge, No. 390; Samuel A. Steele, of the firm of Steele & Hall, pavement contractors, and he belonged to Washington Lodge, No. 253; George F. McDonald, engaged in business as a confectioner, and a member of Milnor Lodge, No. 287; and George Heaps, of the firm of George Heaps & Co., grocers, and a member of Pittsburgh Lodge, No. 484. The Board on January 4, 1892 elected as president, Charles C. Baer; treasurer, James Herdman, and secretary, A. M. Pollock. At this meeting, January 4, the first official mention is made in the minutes of the change from the designation of "janitor" to that of "superintendent of the building." Brother Thomas C. Graham had resumed

in the new Hall his position as janitor of the Hall and tyler of the bodies meeting therein. But with the increase of membership and the heavier duties imposed by proper attention to the new structure, the work of tyler and janitor could no longer be attended to by one person. Brother Graham solved the difficulty by resigning as janitor, and continuing as tyler for the Masonic bodies meeting in Freemasons Hall; and at a meeting held by the trustees January 12, 1892, the resignation was accepted and Brother Joseph Thompson, an active young member of Dallas Lodge, No. 508, was elected not as janitor, but as "Superintendent of the Building," a position he continues to hold in the great Temple in the Schenley Park district.

In this year, 1892, the Board of Trustees lost another valued and devoted member in the death of Brother Dr. Alexander M. Pollock, who breathed his last at his residence, No. 91 Wylie avenue, Pittsburgh, on June 20 of that year. He had long been in failing health and his last attendance at the meeting of his fellow trustees was on September 1, 1891. He had served as a trustee of the Masonic Fund Society continuously since the first meeting of the Board in 1854, and during all that long period to the day of his death had filled the office of secretary of the Board. He was a most diligent member and there were few meetings he did not attend until failing health kept him away. He was esteemed and loved as a citizen, and as a physician held high rank in the city of Pittsburgh. In the resolutions adopted by the Board of Trustees in memory of his useful services it is well said:

> We bear grateful witness to the judgment and courtesy with which he discharged his duties, and to the conscientious fidelity with which, for more than thirty years, he has watched over the interests committed to his care, as an officer of the Masonic Fund Society of Allegheny county.

The Board ended up this year by announcing a four per cent. dividend at a meeting held November 1, and in addition a motion was unanimously agreed to that "the officers of the Board be directed to retire outstanding bonds of the Masonic Fund Society to the amount of $2,000, and a warrant for said amount is hereby ordered." When the

stockholders met in December they elected as the successor of Dr. Pollock on the Board of Trustees his brother, A. Wenzell Pollock, a member and past master of Lodge 45. At the Board organization for 1893 this new trustee was chosen to fill the office of secretary, which Dr. Pollock had held for thirty years. Brother McCandless was made President and Herdman retained as treasurer. The Hall Committee comprised Brothers Oliver, Heaps and Brown.

It was in this year, 1893, that the first, and as yet, the only change in the charter of the Masonic Fund Society was made. For some years there had been insistent criticism over the provision in Art. V of the charter which provided that "each member shall be entitled to one vote, and no vote by proxy shall be received." Being so very general in its wording and making no designation or direction as to just what members or officers of a lodge or other body should vote, as the representative of that body at stockholders' meetings, there had developed much looseness in the practice of voting at these meetings, which it was thought necessary to correct. As a result a strong demand had arisen for a modification of the charter so as to do away with this defect. Accordingly, at a meeting of the Trustees held February 7, 1893, the following action was taken:

On motion of Bro. Brown, duly seconded, the President was authorized to call a special meeting of the stockholders of the Masonic Fund Society, for the purpose of considering the propriety of having the Charter of our Society amended.

In pursuance of that action, a special meeting of the stockholders was called for March 22. But the date was subsequently changed to April 11, 1893. As the change that was brought about in the charter is of historical value and interest, below is given the complete minutes of that stockholders meeting, April 11, at which Brother William B. Lupton was chairman and Brother James E. Stevenson secretary.

A special meeting of the members (stockholders) of the Masonic Fund Society for Allegheny County was held April 11th, 1893, at 7 o'clock, P. M., in pursuance of the call issued by the Trustees, notice of the meeting and the purpose thereof having been mailed to each member.

On motion, duly seconded, W. B. Lupton was elected chairman and James E. Stevenson secretary.

The call for the meeting was read, as follows:

"That a special meeting of the members of said Society should be called for the 22nd day of March, '93 at 7 P. M., at the regular place of meeting, to act upon a proposition to amend the Charter thereof, by striking out the following words, to-wit:

'Each member shall be entitled to one vote, and no vote by proxy shall be received;' and inserting in lieu thereof the following: 'Each member shall be entitled to one vote for each share of stock held by him, as shown by the books of the Society; but no share transferred within ten days of the election shall entitle the holder thereof at such meeting, to a vote or votes; nor shall any vote by proxy be received. Shares of stock held by a lodge shall be voted by a Trustee elected for that purpose, at the last preceding annual election thereof, or in case of failure to elect such trustee, by the master.'

The meeting called for Mch. 22, '93 was postponed until Apl. 11, '93.

W. G. McCandless, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, offered the following amendment to the Charter:

Resolved, that Article V of the Charter of the Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny, be amended by striking out the following words, to-wit: 'Each member shall be entitled to one vote, and no vote by proxy shall be received,' and inserting in lieu thereof the following: 'Each member shall be entitled to one vote for each share of stock held by him, as shown by the books of the Society, but no share transferred within ten (10) days of the election, shall entitle the holder thereof to vote at such meeting, nor shall any vote by proxy be received. Shares of stock held by a lodge shall be voted by a Trustee, elected for that purpose at the last preceding annual election thereof, or in case of failure to elect such Trustee, by the master.'

George W. Guthrie offered an amendment to the amendment, to strike out the following words, to-wit: "Shares of stock held by a lodge shall be voted by a Trustee elected for that purpose at the last preceding annual election thereof, or in case of failure to elect such Trustee, by the master," and inserting in lieu thereof the following: "Shares of stock held by a lodge, or other body, shall be voted by a Trustee elected for that purpose, or in case of failure to elect such trustee, by the presiding officer thereof."

After a lengthy discussion, a vote was taken on the amendment as amended by Brother Guthrie, and it was carried.

On motion duly seconded, the Resolution as amended was passed, and reads as follows:

ARTICLE V.

"The election of Trustees shall be by ballot and shall be held in

a suitable place in the city of Pittsburgh on the 27th day of December in each and every year, unless the same shall fall upon the Sabbath, in which case, it shall be on the 28th. Each member shall be entitled to one vote for each share of stock held by him, as shown by the books of the Society; but no share transferred within ten (10) days of the election shall entitle the holder to vote at such meeting, nor shall any vote by proxy be received. Shares of stock held by a lodge, or other Body, shall be voted by a Trustee elected for that purpose, or in case of failure to elect such Trustee, by the presiding officer thereof. The Judges of said election shall be chosen by a majority of the members that may be present at said election. None but Masons shall be entitled to vote. The Trustees shall continue in office one year and until others are chosen and organized; and in case of death, resignation or refusal to act, of any Trustee, the members may elect others to supply such vacancies, in such manner as is prescribed in this Article."

It was moved by Bro. Steel that the amended Resolution be printed and sent to every member. The motion was adopted. On motion, adjourned.

Then at a meeting of the Board of Trustees held April 18, it was unanimously resolved that "an application be made to the Court of Common Pleas to amend the Charter in the manner approved at the meeting of stockholders held April 11, 1893." A printed notice with the proposed amendment, dated June 26, 1893, and signed by Secretary A. W. Pollock, was sent to the stockholders of the Masonic Fund Society, with the following directions at the bottom of the sheet:

Lodge and other Bodies holding stock are requested to take notice of the provisions made for voting such stock, and to act in accordance with it. In order to avoid confusion, bodies appointing Trustees to vote the stock should cause a certificate of the appointment to be issued, and notify the Secretary of the Society in advance of any meeting.

Following the direction of the Board at their meeting of April 13, the application for the amendment was presented by Attorney George W. Guthrie to the Common Pleas Court of Allegheny County, and on June 5 following this decree was handed down by the Court:

And now, to-wit: this 5th day of June, A. D. 1893, the within amendments, alterations & improvements having been presented to this Court, and it appearing to the Court that due notice has been given according to law, and that no objection has been made or cause shown to the contrary, it is, on motion of George W. Guthrie, Esq., Attorney for petitioners, ordered & decreed that upon recording of

the same, the said amendments, alterations and improvements shall be deemed and taken to be part of the Charter of the said Corporation.

This has been the only change made in the Charter of the Masonic Fund Society since it was first granted by the Courts of Allegheny County seventy-three years ago.

Aside from this business of charter changing, there is nothing in the records of the meetings of the trustees during 1893 of special moment, except the purchase and cancellation of $2,000 worth of outstanding bonds and the declaration of a four per cent. dividend. When the stockholders got together in December they elected all the Trustees, with the exception of Brother George T. Oliver, who was not a candidate. His place was taken by Brother Arthur B. Wigley, who was at that time the Pittsburgh manager of R. G. Dun & Company, and had been made a Mason in Louisville, Ky., where he had formerly resided. In Pittsburgh he affiliated with St. John's Lodge, No. 219, and was ending his third term as worshipful master of that lodge when elected a member of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society for the year 1894. During this year important and expensive alterations and improvements were made in the new Hall, one of these being the "painting and decorating the stairway hall from the first floor to the top, and also the rooms on the fourth floor," at a cost of $2,550. At a meeting held April 3 a motion was adopted that "we grant the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania the use of the fourth and fifth floors during their annual Conclave in May next." This Conclave proved to be one of the most notable ever held by the Knights Templar of the Keystone state, and extended through two days, May 22 and 23, 1894. One of the resolutions adopted was the following:

"Resolved, That the thanks of this Grand Commandery are due and are hereby extended to the Sir Knights of the several Commanderies of Pittsburgh and Allegheny for their many courtesies, and for their kindness in furnishing quarters in Freemasons' Hall for the use of this Grand Commandery.

One event however had thrown a pall of solemnity over the procedings of the Conclave. This was the death of Sir Knight Charles C. Baer, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania, which had occurred at his

home in Pittsburgh on March 28, 1894. Brother Baer had been a member of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society for nearly sixteen years, having served from January, 1876, to the end of the year 1892, when ill health compelled him to refuse reelection. Another event of interest in the year 1894 was a gathering in Freemasons' Hall in September of veterans of the Civil war, as is noted in the minutes of a meeting of the Trustees held June 5, to the effect that "the request of Thomas J. Hudson asking the privilege of using the banquet hall for their Grand Army meeting in Sept. next, was granted." It is announced by the minutes of a meeting of the Board in July of that year that a committee of the masters of various lodges had requested that "they be allowed to hold one extra meeting in each month without expense to the lodges." The request was granted by the Trustees, and they closed their work for the year by declaring another four per cent. dividend.

But the year did not end without the Board of Trustees suffering another great loss by the hand of death. On October 31, 1894, Brother James Herdman died at his residence, No. 30 Arch street, in the then separate city of Allegheny, now a part of Pittsburgh. For forty years he had been continuously a member of the Board of Trustees, he and Brother Pollock having been elected in the same year, 1854. In July, 1855, he was chosen treasurer of the Masonic Fund Society, and with the exception of but one year had continued in that office until the day of his death. He was one of the leading citizens of Pittsburgh and at the time of his death was President of the Dollar Savings Bank of that city. As a Mason he stood very high in the estimation of the Fraternity, and for twenty-six consecutive years he had served with signal ability and influence as a member of the Committee on Finance of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. He was a tower of strength in the Masonic Fund Society and by his counsel and material aid had been largely instrumental in carrying it through some threatening financial crises. This fact is gratefully referred to in the memorial resolutions adopted by the Board of Trustees, in which they pay this tribute:

He turned over to the different Masonic Bodies meeting in the

Hall all stock purchased by him, at cost, and to his faithfulness and foresight is due the fact that out of 6,186 shares, 5,067 are now owned by them. For this alone the Fraternity owes to him a debt of deepest gratitude, and should forever cherish his memory.

The stockholders when they convened in December to elect trustees for the year 1895 retained the six survivors, and Brother Herdman's place was filled by the selection of Brother Americus V. Holmes, 33°. He was a member of Milnor Lodge, No. 287, but withdrew from that Body and became a charter member of Dallas Lodge, No. 508, which was constituted June 5, 1872, and later became W. M. of that Body. At the time of his election to the Board of Trustees he was Treasurer of the Scottish Rite Bodies in the Valley of Pittsburgh, and in the year 1892 was made a Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the Thirty-third and last Degree. Brother Holmes, whose useful activity in Masonic matters still continues, is the son of that very popular and greatly esteemed Mason of earlier days, Brother Dr. Shepley R. Holmes, who was made a Free Mason in the old Ohio Lodge, No. 113, in the year 1815, and was appointed D. D. Grand Master in 1831 and served for three years.

The Board organized for the year 1895 by electing Brother McCandless president; Lupton, treasurer, and Pollock, secretary. Matters principally of routine interest are found on the minutes of the Board for this year, but we get a glimpse of the financial status of the Society by the following record of a meeting held March 5:

The treasurer reported: Cash in the Iron City National Bank, $1,917.80; cash on hand, $35.00; and also that the am't of interest on bonds due April 1st next was $2,920.00, and March & September installments of city taxes due this month.

At a meeting on April 2, 1895, a fuller financial report was made:

The Treasurer, Bro. Lupton, reported: Cash in Iron City Nat'l Bank, $527.21; cash on hand, $34.00 and also that the rents due (by tenants to the Society) on April 1st amounted to $7,300. That he had had the Society's note discounted, amounting to $6,300.00, which would be due on April 28th, and that he had paid to the Fidelity Title & Trust Co., $2,920.00, the amount of interest due on bonds April 1st, 1895; and $4,392.38 for the March and September installments of city taxes for 1895.

At a meeting on May 7 permission was granted, on mo-

tion of Brother A. V. Holmes, to the Library Committee, to remove pictures hanging in the library to the Reception room, "in order to make room for an additional book case in the library." In November the four per cent. dividend was announced, and in December all the trustees were reelected but one, Brother McCandless being succeeded by Brother Alfred S. Bishop, a well known insurance broker, and a member and past master of Franklin Lodge, No. 221. The Board organized for the year 1896 by electing Brother Wigley president, Lupton treasurer, and Pollock secretary. The minutes of this year are also barren of matters of general importance. The four per cent. dividend was announced and the Board was reelected for 1897, with the exception of Brother A. W. Pollock, who was not a candidate for reelection and whose place was filled by Brother Edward S. Wright, then warden of the Western Penitentiary, and a member of Lodge 45. The minutes of this year show that many improvements and alterations were made in the Masonic building. The dividend of four per cent. was declared, and some bonds were bought in and cancelled. The Board was chosen again for the year 1898. This was another quiet twelve months period. The usual dividend came, and in December all the Trustees were retained, except Brother Wigley, who was succeeded by Brother John D. Craig, a member of St. John's Lodge, No. 219, and at that time Treasurer of the Riter-Conley Co., of Pittsburgh. The Board organized for the twelve months of 1899 by electing for President James W. Brown; for Treasurer, William B. Lupton and for Secretary John D. Craig. The reports of routine business, with the announcement of a four per cent. dividend, make up the minutes for this year, and for the year 1900 all the trustees were retained except Brother George Heaps, whose place on the Board was taken by Brother Harry W. Dunlap, 33°, a member of St. John's Lodge, a popular and forceful worker in the Masonic Bodies. The whole number of shares voted at this election, for trustees for 1900, was 4,595. For that year the officers of the Board were President, Lupton; treasurer, Bishop and secretary, Craig.

In the minutes of this year, 1900, we find references

to the discussions among the brethren which were to finally culminate in the erection of the great Temple that is now the home of the Masonic Bodies in Pittsburgh. It is an interesting and convincing evidence of the magnificent growth of the Order to find that already in 1900 there was need for a larger building. Early in that year the Board of Trustees had named a special committee to inquire into the question of the erection of another structure, and we find this matter referred to in the minutes of a meeting of the Trustees held June 5 of 1900:

E. S. Wright made a report from the Special Committee on New Hall, when on motion, said committee were requested to procure Geo. W. Guthrie's opinion, after presenting the information they had obtained.

During the period between the opening of Freemasons Hall in 1889 and the year 1900 the Order had increased remarkably in numbers and in prosperity. Their Fifth avenue Hall was found to be inadequate, both as to space and equipment, to meet the necessities of the Bodies meeting therein. The question of a selection of a new location upon which to build was also involved in the proposition for the erection of a new Masonic structure, and that would of course bring into consideration the sale of the holdings on Fifth avenue. In the minutes of a meeting held Juy 10, 1900, is the following:

The President announced that the meeting was called for the purpose of receiving the report of the committee appointed to procure Mr. Geo. W. Guthrie's opinion as to the powers of the Society in relation to the sale of the present Freemasons Hall, and the purchase of a new site, and the erection of a new building.

It will be seen from the foregoing that the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society were from the start of this latest movement for a new Masonic edifice responsive to the progressive impulses of the brethren, and the request for a legal opinion from Brother Guthrie was expressive of the purpose of the trustees to always act, with due regard to proper procedure, for the advancement of the interests of the fraternity. The question submitted to Brother Guthrie was practically the same that had been placed before him prior to the construction of Freemasons Hall in 1889. Were the trustees compelled, or not, by the terms of the Charter

of the Masonic Fund Society to build on the Fifth avenue site, or could they legally sell it, acquire a property at another location and erect thereon a Masonic edifice? As will be seen further on, the conclusions of the opinion of 1889 were not adhered to in this latest document from the hands of the attorneys of the Board of Trustees. They announced that there was in the charter nothing to prevent the sale of the Fifth avenue lot, the purchase of another site and the construction of a Masonic building thereon.

Late in the year 1900 Brother John D. Craig, who was at that time secretary of the Board, resigned as a Trustee, and Brother James I. Buchanan, 33°, of St. John's Lodge, No. 219, was elected to take his place, and Brother Alfred S. Bishop was chosen secretary, the Board for the year 1901 being then as follows: William B. Lupton, A. V. Holmes, James W. Brown, Alfred S. Bishop, Edward J. Wright, James I. Buchanan and Stephen C. McCandless, of Milnor Lodge No. 287, who was chosen to replace Brother Harry W. Dunlap, who had declined to be a candidate for reelection. The Board organized by electing Brother Bishop to fill the offices of both secretary and treasurer, and Brother Lupton was made president. Brother James I. Buchanan finding that his business engagements did not allow him sufficient time to devote to the work of the Board of Trustees, resigned at a meeting February 1, 1901, and May 7 Brother Stephen C. McCandless sent in his resignation as a trustee. To fill the vacancies caused by these retirements, the stockholders at their annual meeting December, 1901, filled the places of the retiring brethren by choosing Brothers Harry M. Landis, of St. John's Lodge, No. 219, and John W. Taylor, of Stuckrath Lodge, No. 430. The minutes of the minutes during 1902 are wholly of a routine character. In December the only change made in the Board for the year 1903 was the election of Brother Andrew D. Armstrong, of Milnor Lodge, No. 287, to succeed Brother William B. Lupton. The Board organized by electing Brother Alfred S. Bishop President, Holmes treasurer and Armstrong secretary. At the January 6 meeting a dividend of four per cent. was declared for the year 1903. During this year the Trustees went along with the usual, but important, work of keeping the Hall in

good repair and providing all possible conveniences for the Bodies using it. But a record of a meeting held December 1, of that year, slides off the routine tracks to make the agreeable announcement that "a motion was made by Bro. A. V. Holmes, and seconded by Bro. H. W. Landis, that the trustees purchase a Turkey for each of the employees for Christmas." As the motion was unanimously carried it may be safely surmised that there were especially hilarious festivities in certain Pittsburg homes when the Christmas dinner of 1903 was set forth in all its glory. And that pleasant custom has been many times followed since. At the December 14 meeting a resolution was adopted to "retire $4,000 of the Society's bonds."

For the year 1904 all the trustees were retained, as they were for the year 1905, the only item of general interest for that period being the purchase and cancellation in 1904 of the Society's outstanding bonds to the amount of $4,000.

We are now arrive in this year 1905 to the record of the Masonic Fund Society which marks the first practical and decisive steps taken to dispose by sale of the property on Fifth avenue, with a view to the purchase of a larger piece of ground and the erection thereon of a great Masonic edifice, such as should meet the requirements of the local Craft. For four years past various new locations had been suggested, and the sentiment in favor of a new site and a larger structure had by the year 1905 become general and insistent. Gourgas Lodge of Perfection, particularly, had for some time past been urging the construction of a new edifice on another site. Persistent but ineffectual efforts had been made as far back as 1894 by that Body to arouse the interest of the symbolic lodges and other Masonic Bodies, but concerted action could not then be obtained, and so further efforts were abandoned until late in 1906. In the meantime, the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society, ever mindful of the needs and eager to promote the welfare of the Fraternity, took up the matter in real earnest in 1905. There was as yet, however, no settled preference for any particular location other than the old one on Fifth avenue. But there was one consideration which had weight among

the Pittsburgh brethren generally. This consideration had to do with the enhanced value of the Masonic property on Fifth avenue. Real estate on that thoroughfare had increased amazingly in price since 1889, when Freemasons Hall was dedicated, and it was felt that this property could now be sold at a most profitable figure. It would therefore be a matter of good business enterprise to dispose of it and buy ground and build elsewhere, if once a fairly unanimous sentiment would be expressed in favor of some new locality. To be in position to name a proper selling price, the Board of Trustees took into consideration the various offers which were then being made by would-be purchasers of the Masonic holdings, as is shown by the following entry in the minutes of a meeting held January 3, 1905:

Inquiry having been made by several parties as to the value of the property owned by the Society, and it being the opinion of a majority of the stockholders that the property should be sold, provided a fair price were offered for it, the Trustees, after considerable discussion, arriving at their decision by comparison with prices recently obtained for 5th avenue property, fixed a value of $1,500,000 on the property.

With the increase of land values at that time came also a corresponding increase in the way of rentals, as is shown by the fact that whereas in the year 1888 the trustees had made a lease for the store room in the Fifth avenue Hall and the basement beneath for the sum of $12,000, in the year 1905 the rent, as stipulated in the lease was $30,000 a year. Of course, in the meantime, there had been many and expensive improvements made in and about the building. Finally at a special meeting held June 1, 1905, the trustees took under advisement a specific offer made for the purchase of the property. This session was held, as the minutes set forth, "for the purpose of considering an offer for the Society's property made by R. P. Nevin, Jr." The Board, however, was going into this matter with deliberation and care as we may notice from this transcript from the minutes of that meeting:

The matter was thoroughly discussed, and it was unanimously decided that the Board, by the Charter, had full power to dispose of the property; but at the same time, the stockholders should be notified of our intended action; when the following motion was made:

On motion by James W. Brown, seconded by A. D. Armstrong,

that a meeting of the stockholders be called to consider the aforesaid proposal.

Previous to this meeting, however, definite and conclusive action had been taken by various lodges, holding in the aggregate the largest amount of stock in the Fifth avenue property. They had voted, in their lodge meetings, by large majorities in favor of selling that property and buying a new location and building thereon. So when the stockholders' meeting was called by notices published in the local newspapers the brethren were ready to reach definite conclusions as to this very important and engrossing subject. This session of the stockholders was held July 25, 1905, the chairman being Brother Frank W. Zimmer, of Franklin Lodge, No. 221, and Brother Andrew D. Armstrong of Milnor Lodge, No. 287, was chosen secretary. Fourteen individual holders of stock were present, in addition to the elected representatives of fifteen Masonic Bodies. Among those in attendance, and taking active part in the proceedings, was Brother James W. Brown, of Hailman Lodge, No. 321, who was then the R. W. Grand Master of the Pennsylvania jurisdiction. Herewith is a complete transcript of the minutes of this important meeting:

Alfred S. Bishop, President of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society, made a statement, giving the reason for this special meeting of the stockholders being called. He stated that while the Masonic Bodies owning the large number of shares had voted to sell the property, yet they did not authorize any person or persons to sell. The secretary was then requested to read Article VII. of the Charter relative to the powers of the trustees as to the purchase and sale of any property owned by the Society. After Article VII. was read, the President of the Board of Trustees stated that the Trustees wanted it distinctly understood that they did not waive any of the rights or powers given to them under the Charter. But as this is in the nature of a fraternal organization, the Trustees desired to have the stockholders called together in order that the matter might be discussed in a fraternal manner.

Wm. J. Mustin, of Commandery 48; Wm. Leatherman, of Lodge No. 287, and James W. Brown, R. W. Grand Master of Pennsylvania, made some remarks in relation to the value of the property and the probability of a sale being made. The President of the Board of Trustees then stated that several offers and requests for options had been made, the last one being for an option on the property at $1,200,000, less 2% commission to be paid the broker handling the sale. After some further discussion—

A motion was made by Eli Edmundson, Jr., seconded by Edward Hope, that the stockholders of the Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny approve whatever action is taken by the Board of Trustees, under Article VII of the Charter of the Society, leading to the sale of the property on 5th avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa., provided that the property be not sold for less than $1,200,000.

The roll was called and the stockholders were requested to vote "For," if they were in favor of the motion to sell; and "Against," if opposed to it. The following is a list of the individual and representative votes cast—all in favor of the motion:

H. H. Arnold, 1; Andrew D. Armstrong, 1; A. S. Bishop, 7; Geo. P. Balmain, 1; James W. Brown, 3; Lewis T. Brown, 10; Eli Edmundson, Jr., 1; A. V. Holmes, 1; A. J. Lawrence, 2; H. M. Landis, 1; Wm. J. Morris, 1; Sam'l A. Steel, 1; John W. Taylor, 1; E. S. Wright, 1.—Total 32.

The representative vote were as follows:

			Votes
George Dickson,	represent'g	Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162	523
Charles Johnson,	"	Duquesne Chapter, No. 193	24
George Goodwin,	"	Encampment No. 1	10
Edward Hope,	"	Gourgas L. Perfection	101
Edward Lane, W. M.	"	Lodge 45	638
Louis W. Sperber	"	St. John's Lodge No. 219	791
Frank W. Zimmer	"	Franklin Lodge, No. 221	1410
George Rese	"	Allegheny Lodge, No. 223	1
Louis E. Michel,	"	Solomon Lodge, No. 231	143
Edward Bauer, W. M.,	"	Milnor Lodge, No. 287	1331
Samuel A. Steel,	"	Washington Lodge, No. 253	150
William B. Wilson	"	Dallas Lodge, No. 508	100
Malcolm G. McLaren	"	McCandless Lodge, No. 390	2
Charles R. F. Schwartz	"	Tancred Com. No. 48	150
William W. Price	"	Pittsburgh Lodge, No. 484	60
		Total representative vote	5434

Making a grand total of 5466 votes cast in favor of the motion, and none against.

As shown by the above record there was no question or uncertainty as to the desirability of selling the Fifth avenue property, if a good price were obtained. But here again, action ended. The matter receded once more into the background, and several years were to elapse, and much divergence of opinion was to arise, before Freemasons Hall was turned into the hands of the profane and a new location finally agreed upon. Aside from this affair regarding the property, the Board of Trustees had no other important matter before them during the rest of the year 1905, with

the exception of the record of a meeting November 8, wherein it is stated that pursuant to a resolution previously adopted, "the President and Secretary had purchased from the Dollar Savings Bank bonds to the value of $10,000, and had cancelled the same."

There was no change in the membership of the Board for 1906, and the Trustees started the new year by buying from Gourgas Lodge of Perfection, A. A. S. R., bonds of the old issue of 1888 to the value of $6,000, which "were promptly cancelled." Meantime, notwithstanding the probable sale of the Fifth avenue property, important and expensive repairs and alterations were made this year, 1906, in the Masonic building. In February a contract was closed for repairing the skylight at a cost of $575, with an additional cost for repainting the same of $105; and at this date the Trustees had just paid $2,250, "covering the first payment on contract for elevator being erected in the store room of the Hall." The total cost of this latter improvement was $4,500. One of the interesting features of the financial status of the Board of Trustees at this period was the steady effort being made to reduce the number of bonds as fast as possible. As will be remembered, the issue of bonds made in 1888 amounted to $150,000, and in the minutes of a meeting held in March, 1906, it is stated that of the $150,000 issue there were still outstanding bonds to the amount of $104,000, but that in that same month of March this had been reduced to the extent of $10,500, as bonds to that value had just been purchased from Franklin Lodge, No. 221, and cancelled.

There was no change in the membership of the Board for the year 1907, and the records of the sessions for the twelve months are of no particular importance. The same board was retained for 1908, and in this year a very important step was taken in connection with the adjustment of the payment of the outstanding bonds of the Masonic Fund Society of the issue of 1888. The meeting at which this matter was considered and arranged was held September 29, 1908, and in the minutes is this explanatory entry:

The president announced that the meeting had been called for

the purpose of providing for the payment of the bonds of the Society which fall due October 1, 1908.

The minutes of the meetings of the shareholders of the Society held July 10th, 1888, at which meeting the bond issue was authorized, were then read, and it appeared that the Trustees, under the resolution adopted at that meeting, were empowered to extend the time of payment of the bonds to a period not exceeding five years, and at a rate of interest not exceeding six per cent. per annum, without any further action of the shareholders;

Whereupon, on motion of John W. Taylor, seconded by A. V. Holmes, the following resolution was adopted:

The resolution referred to above as introduced by Brother Taylor had been drawn up by Brother George C. Burguin, the then solicitor of the Board of Trustees, and the main features of are: It is first recited that the Masonic Fund Society had executed and delivered, in October, 1888, to the Fidelity Title and Trust Co., of Pittsburgh, a mortgage on the Masonic property on Fifth avenue to secure the payment of a bond issue of $150,000, the said company being trustee for the sale of the bonds; that up to September 29, 1908, the Society had bought and cancelled outstanding bonds to the amount of $69,000; that at that date, September 29, 1908, the Dollar Savings Bank of Pittsburgh had become owner and holder of the remaining bonds to the extent of $52,500; and that "sundry other persons" also held bonds of this issue to the value of $28,500. This being the status of the bond issue at that date, an agreement had been made and executed between the Masonic Fund Society and the Dollar Savings Bank whereby the latter agreed to purchase the $28,500 worth of bonds held by outside parties, and then, having made this purchase, the bank extended the time of payment on all these bonds "for a period of five years from the first day of October, 1908," at a rate of five per cent. interest. Under this convention, the outstanding bonds continued to slowly decrease in volume, and it is interesting to note that this plan was followed steadily. Two years later later, for instance, in December, 1910, the status of the bond account is given by the following statement from the Fidelity Title and Trust Company, who were still the bond trustees:

Bonds outstanding Nov. 30, 1909	$60,000.00
Bonds purchased and retired during 1910	16,000.00
Bonds outstanding Nov. 30, 1910	44,000.00

Aside from the above action taken with regard to the bonds, the minutes for the year 1908 are devoted to recording routine matters relative to improvements on the Hall and the prompt payment of numerous bills. In December all the trustees were reelected for the year 1909, and during this period nothing of general concern has been set down in the records of the meetings of the Society. But a sad break was made this year in the membership of the Trustees by the death of Brother James W. Brown, R. W. Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. This influential and greatly beloved Mason died on October 23, 1909, near Detroit, Michigan, where he had gone in the hope of improving his health. He had long been prominent in the iron and steel industry, but had given much of his time and ability to the promotion of Masonic interests. He was a member of Hailman Lodge, No. 321, and had served as R. W. Grand Master in 1904-1905. His wise and efficient activities as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society were gratefully recognized by the Fraternity, and it has been truthfully said of him that he "spread abroad the genial light of a cheerful and kindly heart." His successor on the Board of Trustees was Brother George W. McCandless, of Pittsburgh Lodge, No. 484, the membership of the Board for the year 1910 being, President, Alfred S. Bishop; Treasurer, Americus V. Holmes; Secretary, Andrew D. Armstrong, and Brothers Edward S. Wright, George W. McCandless, John W. Taylor and Harry M. Landis. This year was a busy one for the trustees in connection with the revived proposition to sell the Fifth avenue property and buy a new site for a Masonic building. The details of these proceedings will be found in the next chapter reciting the history of the disposal of that property and the final erection of the present massive Temple.

No change was made in the membership of the Board for the year 1911, but in the minutes of a meeting held on April 4 there is a record of more than passing interest. Mr.

William Campbell, the well known Pittsburgh merchant, had died in March, 1911, and although he had not been a member of the Craft, the trustees rightly felt that they should take official notice of his death, in the form of a deserved tribute. For forty years Mr. Campbell had been a tenant of the Masonic Fund Society, having for that length of time continuously conducted his business, first in the Masonic Hall dedicated in 1851, and then in Freemasons' Hall erected in 1889. The following tribute to his memory was adopted by the Board and recorded on the minutes:

The President reported that Mr. William Campbell, who had been a tenant of the Society for forty years, had died March 23, 1911. On motion, it was resolved, that the action of the officers of the Society in sending a floral tribute and attending the services, at the late residence of Mr. Campbell, be approved, and the following minute be made of his death:

"Mr. William Campbell, our tenant for almost forty consecutive years, was well known to all the members of the Board. He was a man of strong character, upright, honest, and straightforward in all his dealings. The members of the Board who were often brought into contact with him remember, with pleasure, the patience, gentleness and courtesy shown by Mr. Campbell on all occasions, no matter what subject was being discussed. In the death of Mr. Campbell the Society has lost not only a good tenant, but also a valued friend, and one that, in either character, it will be difficult to replace."

In this year, 1911, under date of December 4, we get another glimpse of the bond situation from the following communication, sent to the Board by the Fidelity Title and Trust Co.:

Gentlemen, in reference to mortgage made by the Masonic Fund Society to the Fidelity Title and Trust Co., Trustees under date of October 1, 1888, to secure an issue of bonds, we hereby certify that there were issued bonds aggregating $150,000. According to our records, there have been cancelled to date bonds aggregating $123,000, leaving outstanding at the present time, $27,000.

When the stockholders convened in December to choose trustees for 1912, they retained all the old Board with the exception of Brother George W. McCandless, who was not a candidate, and his place was filled by the selection of Brother Andrew W. Pollock, of Lodge 45, brother of the late Dr. Pollock, and who had formerly been a member of the Board, being elected in December, 1893 and serving until the close of the year 1896. This year of 1912 proved to be

an exacting one for the Board of Trustees. They had on hand the varied and important duties connected with the disposal of the Fifth avenue property, the arrangements for the purchase of another site and the preliminary work incident to the construction of the present Temple—all of which history is presented in full in the succeeding chapter. At a meeting held November 5, 1912, action was taken looking to the purchase of all the outstanding bonds, the minutes reading as follows:

> The question of purchasing all the bonds outstanding before the close of the fiscal year, November 30, 1912, was talked over; when, on motion, the officers were authorized to purchase the entire amount of bonds outstanding and to execute a note for sixty days for the amount over and above that which is available.

The satisfactory sequel of this action is seen in the following record of a meeting of the Trustees held December 3, 1912:

> The President reports that, as per resolution, November 5th, 1912, he and the Secretary had purchased all the bonds outstanding, which was twenty-one thousand ($21,000) dollars, and had executed a note with the Federal National Bank at 60 days for $10,000, this being the amount required over and above the amount available.

Thus at last all the indebtedness incurred by the erection of Freemasons Hall in 1889 was practically disposed of and the Trustees stood ready to engage in the very much larger financial transaction which the purchase of a new site and the erection of a greater edifice involved.

At the annual election for stockholders three new members came into the Board at the beginning of 1913. These were Brothers Joseph E. Lewis, a member of McCandless Lodge, No. 390; William M. Hamilton, of Crescent Lodge, No. 576, and Roland S. Wilson, of Lodge 45. No small quantity of ink had to be used in setting down the voluminous minutes of the meetings of the Society during 1913, detailing the progressive steps taken in connection with the new Temple. No change was made in the membership of the Board for the year 1914, and the same trustees served through the following year. By the end of 1915 the great new edifice was practically completed, and the Board had the fine satisfaction of holding its first meeting there March 2, as shown by the following:

Pittsburgh, Pa., March 2nd, 1915.

A regular meeting of the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society was held at their office in Masonic Temple, cor. 5th and Lytton avenues, today at 3:30 P. M.

Present: A. S. Bishop, Prest.; Jos. E. Lewis, Rowland S. Wilson, A. V. Holmes, Treasu'r; Wm. M. Hamilton, A. D. Armstrong, Sec.

Many matters connected with the new Temple, the settlement of contracts and the adjustment of financial questions, make up the valuable minutes of the year 1915. At the date on which the Trustees held their first meeting in the Temple, practically all of the Masonic Bodies within the limits of the city of Pittsburgh were quartered in the great edifice, the corner stone of which had been laid with impressive ceremonies on Tuesday, March 10, 1914, as described in the chapter following. For the year 1916 only three of the former trustees were retained, Brothers Lewis, Bishop and Landis. The new members were Brothers George W. McCandless, who had served as a trustee during the year 1910; William E. Best, Esq., of Milnor Lodge, No. 287; Taylor Alderdice, of Fellowship Lodge, No. 679; and Fager Jackson Shidle, also of Milnor Lodge, and who was the third of his name and family to become a member of the Board of Trustees. When the time again came in December to choose trustees for the year 1916 Brother Harry Milton Landis was on a bed of sickness, from which he never arose, this highly esteemed and efficient member of the Board dying at his home in Pittsburgh December 7, 1916. Brother George W. Wilson, a member of Pittsburgh Lodge, No. 484, was elected to fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees caused by the death of Brother Landis. For more than forty years Brother Wilson has stood at the forefront of the local Fraternity, a useful and constant and beloved worker for the best interests of the Craft, and now is rounding out his long and honorable Masonic career as a member and treasurer of the Masonic Fund Society. On June 24, 1917, formal announcement was made at a meeting of the Trustees of the death of Brother George W. Guthrie, 33°, eminent in civic and Masonic life, and a Past Grand Master of Pennsylvania Masons. He had died at Tokoyo, Japan, where he was filling with honor and dis-

tinction the office of Ambassador from the United States. He had through many years taken a deep personal interest in the labors of the Board of Trustees and had for an extended period been its official legal adviser.

Since the year 1917 there has been no change in the membership of the Board of Trustees, and the reader will find in the next chapter an extended recital of the great labors of the Board in the period during which the present Temple was constructed. Later it was made the home of thousands of ardent American soldiers, preparing to take part in the great war in France. For always has this ancient Board of Trustees, down through its great existence of nearly three quarters of a century, been mindful of the calls of patriotism as well as of charity, whether along great or small lines. Always its deeds of benevolence have been unobtrusive, and no records are ever left to tell where help has been given, for the unrecorded words of gratitude are deemed ample recognition of all the sweet ministrations of charity. Now and then, however, we come across some bit of benevolence which gets noticed, as for instance we may read in the minutes of a meeting of the Trustees held October 1, 1918, a record set down with grave precision by Secretary Fager J. Shidle, of a resolution, unanimously adopted, to the effect "that the Masonic Fund Society purchase $50 worth of tickets for the benefit of the Pittsburgh and Erie baseball teams, to be distributed to the school children of the Schenley High and the Bellefield Schools."

Here we end our recital of the multitudinous matters which have come up for consideration and action by the successive members of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny through the long period of seventy-three years. This recital presents a remarkable and brilliant example of splendid achievements, secured by an unwearied persistence that had its source in a beautiful devotion to Masonry on the part of men who saw in the Fraternity the noblest aims to which mankind may aspire.

CHAPTER VI.

ERECTION OF THE GREAT MASONIC TEMPLE.

Wonderful Growth of Masonry in City of Pittsburgh—Action of Gourgas Lodge of Perfection in Movement for New Edifice—That Body Buys a Site—Board of Trustees Take Up the Great Matter and Decide with Stockholders on Manner of Selling Fifth Avenue Property—Location for Temple Bought in Schenley Park District—Description of that Location—New Temple to Cost Over Million Dollars in Construction and Furnishings—Settlement of All Negotiations and Work Begun on Edifice—Newspaper Comments—Work on Temple Started and Corner Stone Placed with Notable Ceremonies—10,000 Brothers in Procession—Contents of Corner Stone—Imposing Structure Completed—Great Temple Thrown Open to Needs of War and Made Home for Soldiers Going to France.

JUDGE Charles Shaler, who was eminent as a jurist, a Mason and citizen, in the early days of Pittsburgh, and for years an active member and safe counsellor of the Masonic Fund Society, delivered a brilliant address before a large gathering of Masons in Pittsburgh on June 24, St. John's Day, in the year 1846. That address is an illuminating exposition of the antiquity of Masonry and of its revival after the crash of the Roman Empire, in the times of the Middle Ages, when it suddenly emerged, as says Brother Shaler—

> From the darkness that had lowered upon science and skill, and in the course of a few years covered Europe with those immense piles of architecture denominated Gothic, in which are exhibited the most sublime conceptions of the vast, the magnificent, and which seem, in some instances, almost to transcend the bounds of human invention, or the limits of human power.

This close and significant interlacing of Masonry with the art of the builder has always been one of the conspicuous and splendid glories of the Order; and Judge Shaler, in his address, presents that fact with engrossing interest. It is therefore, a matter of extreme importance for our Pittsburgh brethren to keep in mind the thought that by the construction of their great Temple they have not only exemplified the ancient practices of the Craft, but have also given to the world an imposing concrete symbol of Ma-

sonic strength and influence. But there is also, in this connection, another particularly significant thought. It is that our Temples and Halls are not only symbols of Masonic antiquity and teachings, but they are also the products of Masonic necessity. For, amongst other reasons, there has always been one practical controlling reason for the construction of a building for Masonic purposes, whether it be called a "Temple" or a "Hall." That reason is, that there is, at the time, an insistent need for such a building. For our Masonic edifices are not the products of pride—an ostentatious desire to make a display of power and wealth. Indeed, it may be safely asserted that no structure, intended for the use of Masonic Bodies, has ever been erected in the United States, and probably nowhere in the world, without there having been first an actual need for such a structure. Our local Masonic history shows that this has always been the case in Pittsburgh. The modest little Hall of 1811 was replaced by the larger one in 1830; and in turn, this gave place to the still more commodious building of 1851, and then again there came the more imposing Freemasons Hall of 1889, to be followed a quarter of a century later by the splendid Temple now in use. And at each successive construction, the building was always larger than the preceding one, because the steady increase of the Craft required more extensive accommodations.

In Pittsburgh by the year 1905 the Blue Lodges, the Chapters, the Council, the Commanderies and the Scottish Rite Bodies were making remarkable strides in growth and prosperity. The Scottish Rite, sadly pressed for room, were especially urgent in their demands for a larger Masonic building. Thus the various expressions of dissatisfaction over the inadequate accommodations of Freemasons Hall on Fifth avenue became a concrete and constant argument in favor of a larger structure. But from the very beginning of this agitation, the question of the location for a new hall or temple developed a marked diversity of preference among the brethren, and some years were to elapse before an agreement was reached as to just where the new site should be.

It was Gourgas Lodge of Perfection which as far back

as 1901 had first taken hold of the matter with practical vigor. They favored the erection, on a new site, of a building which should be large and modern in appointments, and one in which all the Pittsburgh Masonic Bodies might comfortably gather. But they did not receive at this time support from the brethren in general, and the trustees of the Masonic Fund Society were not willing to embark in such an important enterprise until there was more unity of action. Record has been made in the preceding chapter of the first steps taken by the trustees toward the sale of the old Fifth avenue property and the erection of a new building, which, as has there been shown, had reached the point where the shareholders had authorized the Board of Trustees to dispose of the Fifth avenue premises. But again the whole matter was halted, the trustees knowing that they could not act definitely and therefore satisfactorily to the Craft without a united fraternity behind them.

Finally, in the midst of this status, the Scottish Rite Bodies, led by Gourgas Lodge of Perfection, being so seriously handicapped for a lack of space in Freemasons Hall, decided to go ahead, purchase a site and put up their own hall, in conjunction with any of the other Masonic Bodies who might join in with their plans. In fact, back in the year 1902, Gourgas Lodge of Perfection had got out a circular letter soliciting subscriptions for stock in a new building, declaring "that the growth and prosperity of the Bodies of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite in the Valley of Pittsburgh have rendered inadequate their present apartments and facilities for properly conferring the degrees and for accommodating members and candidates." They continued to keep the matter before the brethren, and by the close of the year 1904 had acquired, by purchase, a lot on Forbes street, in the Oakland district in Pittsburgh, on which they proposed to erect a building. They had appointed a Committee on Ways and Means, and this committee, at a meeting held in November, 1904, at which Brother George W. Guthrie, 33°, was chairman, presented a recommendation to the effect that "Gourgas Lodge of Perfection agrees to contribute $200,000 to the erection of a new Temple." They had determined to go ahead with the propo-

sition, if possible, and Brother James I. Buchanan, 33°, in his "Retrospect of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry in the Valley of Pittsburgh," says, in referring to this meeting, that the recommendation was "adopted by the largest and most earnest vote that was ever cast in Gourgas Lodge of Perfection." But as neither a majority of the other Bodies nor of the shareholders in the Masonic Fund Society could be induced at that time to join in the enterprise, this movement to erect a building in the Oakland district lay dormant until the year 1906.

Then on December 6 of that year, at a meeting of Gourgas Lodge of Perfection a "Building Committee" was appointed and empowered "to formulate plans looking toward the locating, building or securing new quarters for the Scottish Rite Bodies." The Masons who comprised this committee were: Ills. Brothers George W. Guthrie, 33°, James I. Buchanan, 33°, Herman Junker, 33°, Joseph G. Morris, 33°, and Harry W. Dunlap, 33°, with the addition of the presiding officer of Gourgas Lodge. Conferences were held with the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society, during which the fact developed that the former rather strong sentiment in favor of erecting a hall in the Oakland district had a good deal weakened, and it was announced that the Trustees had recently obtained options on other properties in the "downtown section" of Pittsburgh. But again no concerted plan was evolved, and no further action was taken by Gourgas Lodge of Perfection until 1909.

However, the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society were far from abandoning the movement. They were, in fact, in hearty accord with the claim that Freemasons Hall had become too small for the use of the Masonic Bodies. But they still wanted unity of action, and they were acting with due and sensible caution, as is shown by this extract from the minutes of a meeting held March 5, 1907:

> The subject of sale or exchange of the Society's property was talked over for some time, when John W. Taylor made a motion, seconded by A. V. Holmes, that a committee of three, be appointed, consisting of the President, Secretary and H. M. Landis, to take into consideration the question of sale or exchange of the property, and to consult with the Hon. Geo. W. Guthrie (Solicitor), on the legal points pertaining thereo.

Then in 1909 Gourgas Lodge of Perfection made another start in their insistent crusade for a new Masonic building. At a meeting held May 6 of that year, a lengthy report from their Building Committee was received and adopted. In this report strong arguments were again advanced in favor of the Forbes street site, which that lodge had bought, and it was supplemented at the same meeting by an additional report which recited that on a vote for or against the Forbes street lot, 1,769 members of Gourgas Lodge of Perfection had voted in favor of that site, and only 399 against it. There had also been a vote in that lodge on the question whether or not the proposed new hall should be exclusively for Masonic purposes, and on that question the vote was 2,115 in the affirmative and only 60 in the negative. Later other meetings of the Building Committee of Gourgas Lodge were held and on October 7, 1909, Brother James I. Buchanan, 33°,resigned as a member of that committee owing to the fact that his relations with other Masonic Bodies did not seem to him to be consistent with his membership on a committee made up from only one of the Bodies. His place was taken on the committee by Brother William McConway, 33°. This committee did nothing further in the matter of a new hall during 1909. But an entry in the minutes of a meeting of the Masonic Fund Society shareholders on December 27, 1909, shows that the Board of Trustees were ready to pay attention to any proper offer for the purchase of the Fifth avenue property. This entry reads as follows:

> The President of the Masonic Fund Society announced that an offer had been made to the Board of $875,000 for the property of the Society on 5th avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa., and that the Board had refused the offer. Should the Board be offered what they consider a fair proposition for the property, a special meeting will be called to consider the proposition.

The above record indicates the exact position of the Board of Trustees on the subject of disposing of the Masonic holdings and the construction of another building. They were at that period making no official announcement as to their choice of a site for a new hall. Their immediate concern was to safeguard the financial interests of the Craft by attending to the legal and profitable disposal of the prop-

erty then owned by the fraternity down in the business section of the city.

But at the beginning of the next year, 1910, Gourgas Lodge of Perfection, with a commendable spirit of progress, again took up its advocacy of its Forbes street ground as a good site for a Masonic building. A call was sent out for a public meeting of Masons to be held February 2, 1910, in Music Hall of the Carnegie Institute. It was held under the auspices of Gourgas Lodge of Perfection and there was a large number of the brethren present. The Building Committee presented an extended report in favor of erecting a building on the Forbes street site, and this report made a strong impression. But its effect was wholly destroyed immediately after it was read, by an announcement following the reading of the report, that the Pittsburgh Street Railways Company had purchased a lot directly opposite the ground on Forbes street owned by Gourgas Lodge of Perfection, and that upon this lot the railway company was preparing to erect large car barns. This news at once put an end to all arguments in favor of the Forbes street lot as a site for any sort of a Masonic building. The meeting in the Carnegie Hall closed with the adoption of this resolution:

Resolved, That the whole matter be referred back to the committee with instructions to investigate the possibility of disposing of the present site, and the purchase of a more desirable one, and make report at a meeting to be called by the Thrice Potent Master.

Commenting on that conclusion of the long and commendable effort of Gourgas Lodge to bring about the construction of a Masonic Hall sufficient in accommodation to meet the needs of the local Craft, Brother James I. Buchanan, in his "Retrospect" says: "With this ended the movement of the Bodies of the Scottish Rite for a building of their own."

From this period can be dated the adoption of the concerted action which finally brought into existence the great Masonic edifice completed in 1915. There had been a session of the Board of Trustees on the day prior to the meeting in Carnegie Music Hall on February 2, 1910, and it had been arranged to hold a conference with the A. A. S. R. Building

Committee on February 2, prior to the meeting in Carnegie Hall. The reason for this conference on that date was this: The action of the street railways company had become privately known among the Masonic brethren, and it was concluded that as soon as this information should be given at the public meeting the brethren there assembled would at once drop the Forbes street site as a proper one for their proposed hall or temple. This was, as we have seen the result, and the Board of Trustees were then in position to assume the leadership, backed by Gourgas Lodge of Perfection and the other Bodies, in the important work of getting rid of the Fifth avenue property, securing other ground and arranging for the construction thereon of a great edifice. That the building should be one worthy of the importance of the Pittsburgh Masons and ample for their requirements was the general desire. It was, in fact, determined to erect an edifice which would be worthy of the name of "Masonic Temple." Assuming, therefore, charge of this great programme, the Board of Trustees decided to send out a printed circular "to each and every member of the Blue Lodges meeting in Freemasons Hall for the purpose of ascertaining their wishes as to retaining Freemasons Hall as a place of meeting, and their opinion as to the advisability of purchasing another site and erecting a building thereon, which would be more suitable and convenient for all the Masonic Bodies." This circular was prepared and read at a meeting of the Board of Trustees on March 30, nearly a month after the gathering in Carnegie Music Hall. It set forth the purposes in view, and the following two questions were added to it:

(1) Are you satisfied with the accommodations furnished your lodge in Freemasons' Hall, and do you desire to retain said Hall as a place of meeting?

(2) Are you in favor of obtaining another location and the erection of a building thereon which would be more suitable and convenient?

This circular was mailed by the Trustees to 5,268 members of the fraternity, from whom 2,784 replies were received. In answer to the first question above, 1,850 members voted "No;" and 689 voted "Yes." To the second question there were 2,179 votes in the affirmative, and 474

in the negative. While the total number of replies received to the two questions was not as large as had been expected, there could be no doubt as to the attitude of the brethren in general with regard to the proposition to secure a new location and erect thereon a larger hall, and as to the Masons who did not vote at all on either of the two queries, the Trustees were quite justified in interpreting their silence as a sign of acquiescence in whatever action the Board of Trustees might see fit to adopt. It was therefore decided by the Trustees to proceed with the formulation of more definite plans. Accordingly, in pursuance to a previous arrangement, the Trustees met, on April 7, 1910, with the members of the Building Committee of the Scottish Rite Bodies for the purpose of determining and agreeing upon their future line of action with regard to the sale of the Fifth avenue property and the purchase of a site elsewhere. This important session was convened in Freemasons Hall at 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the above named date; and because of the present interest in the matter and its value as a historic record for the future, a complete transcript of the minutes is given herewith. It will be seen by this record that there was no longer any doubt as to the necessity of a new Masonic Hall, nor as to the need of prompt and practical action looking to that end. The minutes are as follows:

Pittsburgh, April 7, 1910.

A special meeting of the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny was held in Freemasons' Hall, Fifth avenue, today at 4 P. M., as per resolution passed at a special meeting held March 30, 1910, which was as follows: "On motion, the President and Secretary were authorized to request the members of the Building Committee of the A. A. S. R. to meet with the Trustees of the Society in Freemasons Hall, Thursday, April 7th, at 4 P. M.

The following were present at this session of April 7:

Members of the M. F. S.:	Members of the A. A. S. R. Committee:
A. S. Bishop, Prest.	Geo. W. Guthrie
A. V. Holmes, Treas.	H. W. Dunlap
John W. Taylor	Herman Junker
Geo. W. McCandless	Wm. McConway
Edward S. Wright	Jos. G. Morris
H. M. Landis	Jas. Lytle
A. D. Armstrong.	Wm. B. Tipton.

A. S. Bishop, President of the Society, presided at the meeting and A. D. Armstrong, Secretary, acted as Secretary.

The President stated the object of the meeting was to make a report of the ballot by the Craft in regard to their desire to remain in the present building, or obtaining another location, and the erection of a building thereon.

The minutes of the informal meeting of March 30, 1910, which gave the number of circulars and cards mailed to the Craft, and the number of the replies received, and the number of Yea and Nay votes on the question, was read.

The subject of formulating some plan to build a new Hall was discussed by the following brothers: Geo. W. Guthrie, Wm. McConway, H. W. Dunlap, Geo. W. McCandless and James W. Lytle and A. S. Bishop, President. After a full and free expression of opinion of the various plans that might be followed, in order to simplify matters, it was thought wise to appoint a committee to prepare and present a plan or plans at a subsequent meeting of the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society and of the Building Committee of the A. A. S. R., to be called by the President of the Masonic Fund Society.

When on motion of Geo. W. Guthrie, seconded by Herman Junker, it was resolved, That a committtee of five be appointed, of which the President of the Masonic Fund Society shall be chairman, to formulate a plan to carry out the wishes of the brethren as expressed by their ballot recorded in the minutes of the meeting held March 30th, 1910; this committee to report back at a subsequent meeting.

The President appointed the following as that committee: Geo. W. Guthrie, Wm. McConway, Harry Dunlap, James H. Lytle and the president. Letters of regret of their inability to be present were received and read from James I. Buchanan and James S. Arnold.

The Committee of Five, appointed as stated above, got to work promptly, drew up a plan and submitted it at an informal meeting of the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society and the representatives from Gourgas Lodge of Perfection, held November 25, 1910, a record of which meeting is as follows:

An informal meeting of the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society for Allegheny County, and the Trustees and Building Committee of the A. A. S. R., was held in Freemasons Hall at 3:30 P. M., pursuant to a call of the chairman.

Trustees Present:	Member of the A. A. S. R., Committee:
A. S. Bishop,	Herman Junker,
A. V. Holmes,	Geo. W. Wilson,
H. M. Landis,	Jas. I. Buchanan,
Edward S. Wright,	Wm. B. Tipton,
Geo. W. McCandless,	Geo. W. McCandless,
John W. Taylor,	

A. D. Armstrong.

Chas. M. Johnstone,
Jos. S. Alexander,
Jas. S. Arnold,
Jos. G. Morris,
Jas. Lytle.

Regrets were received from Geo. W. Guthrie and Wm. McConway and H. W. Dunlap that they had prior engagements and were unable to be present.

The report, or Plan, prepared by the Committee of Five was then read and considered. This was the first definite plan of operations considered by the Board of Trustees, and while it was not the one which finally was adopted, it presented the working basis for the subsequent plans. The principal provisions were as follows:

Upon the sale of the property on Fifth avenue, Pittsburgh, all shareholders, other than the Blue Lodges, are to receive their pro rata proportion of the net proceeds derived from said sale.

Each Blue Lodge now meeting in the present building shall contribute $10,000 to the Masonic Fund Society, and each Blue Lodge now meeting elsewhere, or that may hereafter be constituted, that desires to meet in the new building, shall contribute a like sum, and shall receive therefor an equal interest in the Society.

Blue Lodges having money invested in the present property, to receive in lieu of interest on their investments over and above the $10,000 necessary to their membership in the Society, a sum equal to four times the present annual revenue received from said investment.

Blue Lodges not having sufficient funds to contribute $10,000 to the Society, and become members thereof, are to contribute to the full extent of their funds, and are to pay the balance in annual installments on the first day of October in each and every year until the whole amount is paid; and until such whole amount is paid, they are to pay four per cent. (4%) interest on the amount unpaid.

All other Bodies desiring to meet in the new building are to contribute to the cost of same without becoming members of the Society, and they are to receive one per cent. (1%) interest on the full amount of their contribution.

This plan was then considered in Gourgas Lodge of Perfection at a meeting held May 19, 1911, and the action they took is shown by the following extract from the minutes of that session:

Resolved, That Gourgas Lodge of Perfection approves of the Plan of the Masonic Fund Society attached to the report of the Building Committee, presented at this meeting and agrees, if the plan is carried out, to loan to the Masonic Fund Society cash and real estate as hereinafter set forth; the same to bear interest at the rate

of one per centum per annum, payment to be made as follows, namely:

The property belonging to this Lodge of Perfection on Forbes street near Fifth avenue shall be conveyed to the said Fund Society, or such person as it may designate, at a valuation to be agreed upon between the said Society and the said Building Committee, and an additional sum, which, with the agreed price of the lot, shall not exceed a total of $300,000. The property to be conveyed and the money advanced as soon as the Masonic Fund Society has selected a new location and agreed to furnish to the Bodies of the Scottish Rite adequate and satisfactory accommodations in the new building.

This resolution to adopt the plan as sent in from the Masonic Society was not acted upon at this meeting of Gourgas Lodge of Perfection.

It will be noticed that in the plan as presented by the Committee of Five only the Blue Lodges are mentioned as pledgors and contributors to the fund necessary for the erection of a new building. This restriction was removed by a recasting of the plan, which was presented at a meeting of the Board of Trustees held March 19, 1912. It included the provisions of the plan considered November 25, 1910, but under a heading of "Conditions," came this paragraph:

Each Masonic Body meeting in the new building shall own and hold an equal interest in the Corporation and the purchase and ownership of shares in the Corporation shall be confined exclusive to said Masonic Bodies.

And the words, "Blue Lodges," were changed to the words "Each Masonic Body," or "Masonic Bodies," thus granting to all the Masonic Bodies the right to participate in the ownership of the proposed Temple. This new plan, thus changed from the former one, was signed by the Building Committee of Gourgas Lodge of Perfection, as follows: William H. Hamilton, 33°, chairman; J. Harvey Harrison, 32°; Theodore A. Motherell, 32°; Frank D. Hartman, 32°; and William D. McIlroy, 33°. Further action as to the plan was arranged for at this meeting of the Trustees of March 19, 1912, as follows:

After a general discussion of the plan, it was decided to take no action, and the Board adjourned with the understanding that the Trustees would meet the committee from the A. A. S. R. and ascertain if that committee had any idea of the size of lot that would be required for the new building, the character and cost of the building

to be erected, the probable revenue to be derived and the probable amount of expenses, including interest on bonds, taxes and general operating expenses.

The efficient work done by the Building Committee of the A. A. S. R. from its first formation is a matter of record, and was of a high and durable value. Acting in conjunction with the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society, detail after detail in connection with the business of buying a new site and erecting a costly Temple was taken up as different questions developed during the prolonged planning. During this extended period the membership of the committee had been changed at various times, but always there was concerted and effective action. Particularly is this tribute due to the Committee of the A. A. S. R. by reason of the formulation finally of the very comprehensive report, adopted by the Masonic Fund Society, which furnished the information and the arguments that led to the selection of the site of the present great Temple in the Schenley Park district. This report was drawn up in accordance with the resolution passed at a meeting of the Trustees on March 19, 1912. It was printed in pamphlet form and widely distributed among the Craft at the time, as it comprised a complete statement of the status of the project for a new building and presented facts and figures explanatory of various locations and outlined projects relative to the different kinds of Masonic buildings that had been suggested. This report was first brought officially to the attention of the Board of Trustees at a meeting held August 1, 1912, the minutes of which state that the session was called "to hear the Report of the Committee appointed to prepare a plan for the erection of a suitable building to accommodate all of the Masonic Bodies." There were present at this meeting Trustees Alfred S. Bishop, Americus V. Holmes, Harry M. Landis, Joseph E. Lewis, John W. Taylor and Andrew D. Armstrong. The members of the Scottish Rite Building Committee in attendance were Brothers William M. Hamilton, William D. McIlroy, Frank D. Hartman, J. Harvey Harrison and Theodore Motherell. At this meeting the report was read, "Giving," as the minutes state, "three estimates of different styles and sizes of buildings." The report was

discussed, but, to again quote the minutes, "as it was impossible for those present to arrive at a decision unless they had a copy of the report in their possession," a motion was carried to the effect that each member of the Board of Trustees should be provided with a copy, and that another meeting should be held on Tuesday, August 13, 1912, at 3 o'clock P. M. The trustees assembled on this date, and the long report was adopted as read, "subject to the approval of the shareholders of the Masonic Fund Society." The trustees of the Masonic Fund Society then went further, at the same meeting, and took action which resulted directly in the selection of the ground on which the present Temple stands. This action was formulated in the following resolution, adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny recommend to the shareholders of said Society the adoption of the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny be and they are hereby authorized and directed to dispose of the property on Fifth avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa., now owned by said Society, and to procure a suitable site and erect thereon a building for the accommodation of all the Bodies of the Masonic Fraternity. The said site and building to be, in general terms, in accordance with Plan No. 4, as shown in the Report of the conference of the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny and the Committee of Gourgas Lodge of Perfection, A. A. S. R."

It was then decided to call a special meeting of the shareholders of the Masonic Fund Society, Thursday, August 29, 1912, to adopt or reject the above resolution, and which if adopted would at last end the many efforts, which had now extended over a period of ten years, to bring about the erection of a great Masonic Temple. The shareholders met in special session on August 29, 1912, Brother James B. Youngston being in the chair and Brother Andrew D. Armstrong acting as secretary. The long report was discussed at great length, and particular attention was given to "Plan No. 4," which recommended the purchase of a site in the Schenley Park district. The trend of the discussion indicated that this plan met with general approval among the stockholders at this gathering; but it was finally decided to postpone definite and conclusive action until, as the minutes

state, "the matter could be referred to the different Masonic Bodies interested, in order that they might have an opportunity to instruct their representatives as to how they desired them to vote." A month was therefore given to the brethren in general to study the report, and the stockholders adjourned their meeting with the understanding that final and decisive action should be taken at the very next gathering of the shareholders of the Masonic Fund Society. Let us here go into some detail concerning this Report, in order to be able to keep before us the details of this much discussed document. While, it is true, its provisions are still fresh in the minds of the Pittsburgh brethren; yet as the years go on the future development of our great Order in Pittsburgh will continually increase the interest and value of the Report as an important factor in local Masonic history. In the printed copies of the Report sent out to the members are the following words, addressed by the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society to the Craft:

To the Shareholders of the Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny:

The Board of Trustees respectfully submits for your consideration the following data relative to the disposal of the property of the Society, Fifth avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa., and the purchase of a site and the erection of a building thereon, suitable for the accommodation of all the Masonic Bodies.

The plan to co-operate with the Society in the purchase of a site and the erection of a building originated in the Lodge of Perfection, A. A. S. R., and the resolution therefrom leading to the joint action of the Committee from the Lodge of Perfection and the Trustees of the Society are submitted herewith in full.

We shall quote a few of the paragraphs of the Report which have direct bearing upon the sale of the old property, the purchase of a site in the Schenley Park district and the construction thereon of the present Masonic structure, as follows:

It is stated that the net proceeds of the sale of the present property on Fifth avenue, after the cancellation of the shares held by other than Masonic Bodies, will approximate $800,000.00, and it is assumed that Masonic organizations, including the Scottish Rite Bodies, will contribute $400,000.00, making the total sum available for the purchase of a new site and the construction of a building $1,200,000.00.

The report then presented in careful detail elaborate

facts and figures with regard to the construction, operation and maintenance of a Masonic building, part of which should be devoted to commercial uses in order to obtain a rental income. Then it described another kind of structure to be devoted exclusively to Masonic purposes, with no income except from Masonic sources. Four different estimates were embodied with this valuable data in the report, and then coming down to a definite location, the Report recommends the purchase of ground in the Schenley Park district, in the following terms:

A definite proposition will be made to the Masonic Fund Society, the legal representatives of the properties of the Bodies, when they are prepared to receive and accept it, for the purchase of their Fifth avenue property, coupled with the sale to the Society of a plot of ground of suitable dimensions in the Schenley Farm district of the city. This purchase and sale will bring into the possession of the Masonic Fund Society funds which, with the amounts to be contributed by the Scottish Rite Bodies and such other Bodies as are able to contribute, will be sufficient to erect upon this site a building for the accommodation of all of the various Bodies of the Fraternity, of a capacity ample for their requirements for many years to come, and to provide a small fund for contingencies and for the furnishing of the building.

This report and its recommendation as to the choice of a site and the kind of edifice to be erected were left in the hands of the brethren, to whom it had been mailed, for a period of thirty days. It was then taken up for final consideration by the shareholders on April 29, 1912. This final meeting was held October 31, 1912. It had become generally known that the location decided upon in the Report was acceptable to the Board of Trustees and to the shareholders generally, so that by the time the October meeting was held most of the opposition to the proposition to build in a locality distant from the "down-town" section of the city had simmered away to small proportions. When, therefore, the shareholders assembled in old Freemasons Hall on Fifth avenue on the evening of October 31, 1912, it was understood that the predominant sentiment favored the site in the Schenley Park district. The session was largely attended and the total number of shares voted was 5,580. Brother James B. Youngson was elected Chairman, and Brother Andrew D. Armstrong was secretary. The record

of this historical gathering is particularly interesting and important because of the details it gives, and it is transcribed here in full, as it was written down in the minutes:

A special meeting of the shareholders of the Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny was held today at 7:30 P. M., in pursuance of a call by the President of the Society, issued in accordance with a resolution passed at the special meeting of the shareholders held August 29th, 1912. Total number of shares represented, 5,580. More than 50 per cent. of the shares being represented, on motion, James B. Youngson was chosen chairman and A. D. Armstrong secretary.

The following resolution presented at the special meeting held August 29th, 1912, was then read:

"Resolved, That the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny be and they are hereby authorized and directed to dispose of the property on Fifth avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa., now owned by said Society, and to procure a suitable site and erect thereon a building for the accommodation of all the Bodies of the Masonic Fraternity. That said site and building be, in general terms, in accordance with Plan No. 4, as shown in the Report of the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny and the Committee of Gourgas Lodge of Perfection, A. A. S. R., a copy of which is hereto attached."

On motion of Joseph S. Brown, seconded by Fager J. Shidle, the resolution was adopted by the following vote:

					Shares
Lodge	No. 45	represented by		Roland S. Wilson	638
"	" 219	"	"	James Chambers	794
"	" 221	"	"	Alfred S. Bishop	1442
"	" 231	"	"	Henry E. Arnold	143
"	" 253	"	"	Albert W. Nicholson	160
"	" 484	"	"	George W. Wilson	60
"	" 508	"	"	William F. Hughes	100
"	" 576	"	"	Edward Haslem	22
Chapter	" 162	"	"	Oliver S. Ferguson	523
"	" 193	"	"	James W. Barber	24
Com'dry	" 48	"	"	George W. McCandless	150
"	" 59	"	"	John A. Murphy	5
Gourgas Lodge		"	"	Wm. B. Speer	101
Encam't No. 1		"	"	M. M. Felker	10
Syria Temple Asso.		"	"	James W. Barber	26
				Total number of votes cast by the different Bodies	4198
				Individual votes	14
				Grand total of votes in favor of the resolution	4212

Negative votes cast by ballot 1364
Negative votes cast by individuals 4

Total number of negative votes 1368

On motion of A. S. Bishop, seconded by William M. Hamilton, the following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved, That any and all action taken by the shareholders of the Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny prior to August 29th, 1912, concerning the sale of the present property and the purchase of a site and the erection of a building, be and the same is hereby rescinded."

Only one lodge had voted its shares against the report, but in a short time later, that body reconsidered its action and adopted, at a lodge meeting, a resolution in which it "gives its support to the officers of the Masonic Fund Society in carrying out the expressed wishes of the majority of its shareholders."

The lot upon which it was now decided to erect an imposing structure, a splendid Temple devoted solely to the uses of the Craft, is situated in a locality notable and historic in the annals of Pittsburgh. It is a most attractive section and can be properly designated the center of the artistic and the educational life of the city. The ground which fronts on Fifth avenue, at the corners of Lytton and Tennyson avenues, was originally part of the old Schenley estate and is at the very edge of the spacious and beautiful Schenley park. This park is a creation of the noble munificence of the late Mrs. Mary S. Schenley, who in 1889 presented to the city of Pittsburgh a tract of land of over four hundred acres, close to the leading thoroughfares, Forbes street and Fifth avenue. This became known as Schenley park and subsequent additions have increased its area to over six hundred acres. Within the limits of this extensive and ornate extent of land are to be found the varied beauties of nature in valleys and sloping hills and grassy plains. There, too, are to be seen some of the most notable edifices in the United States. There are the various ornate buildings of the University of Pittsburgh, with its 6,000 students, the imposing Carnegie Institute, with its great library and renowned museum which in popular importance and scientific value ranks with the great museums of the

world. There,too, are the numerous buildings of the Carnegie Institute of Technology and the extensive Conservatory given to the city by Henry Phipps. Near the site of the splendid Masonic Temple are the great Soldiers Memorial Building and the buildings of the Century Club, the Pittsburgh Athletic Association and the beautiful Syria Mosque of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

The large plot of ground, thus so finely located, which the Masonic Fund Society had, as we have seen, decided to buy, was at that time a part of a large acreage known as the Schenley Farms and was owned by the Schenley Farms Company. Negotiations had of course been going on for some time prior to the meeting of the shareholders on October 31, 1912, for the purchase of the lot, which fronts on Fifth avenue at its intersection with Lytton avenue, and in fact it required only the final favorable action of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society to bring this real estate transaction to a close. At a meeting of the Trustees on February 13, 1913, there was presented "an Agreement between the Schenley Farms Company and the Masonic Fund Society for the exchange of the present property on Fifth avenue, known as Freemasons Hall, for a piece of ground in the Schenley Farms Plan, and the erection thereon of a Masonic Temple." This agreement provided not only for the sale of the old premises and the purchase of a new site, but also for the erection of the proposed Temple by the Schenley Farms Company, of course under the plans and supervision of the Masonic Fund Society. But at this meeting after some discussion final action was postponed until another meeting to be held February 17, 1913. But it had been settled at the February 13 session that Brothers Alfred S. Bishop and William M. Hamilton, representing the Masonic Fund Society, and Brother Frank D. Hartman, representing the Scottish Rite Bodies, should constitute the Building Committee.

When the Trustees met at the session of February 17, 1913, the "Agreement" was again considered and then adopted. This agreement, which is of the date of February 26, 1913, provided, in brief, that the Schenley Farms Company would buy from the Masonic Fund Society their prop-

erty on Fifth avenue, known as Freemasons Hall, for the price of $850,000. As part payment, the Trustees were to take over, by deed in fee simple, the plot of ground at Fifth and Lyton avenues, in the Schenley Park district, at a valuation of $400,000, the remaining $450,000 to be secured by bond and purchase money mortgage on the Freemasons Hall property. Two weeks after the agreement was accepted, title to the Schenley Farms lot was transferred by deed to the Masonic Fund Society, and shortly after a bond and mortgage for the remaining $450,000 was executed and recorded. As has been stated, this agreement also provided that the Temple, plans and specifications for which had already been made and accepted, should be built by the Schenley Farms Company at a cost to the Masonic Fund Society, of $848,432. It was also a part of the agreement that until the new edifice should be ready for occupancy the Masonic Bodies were to continue to use Freemasons Hall at a stipulated annual rental.

In the meantime, it had come to the minds of the brethren that while the site of the proposed Temple might be large enough for their day and for years to come; yet, as past experience had invariably shown, a period would certainly arrive when even so extensive an edifice as the one about to be erected would be found inadequate for the increasing membership of the Fraternity. It was therefore decided to buy the lot in the rear of the one already purchased and it was bought by the Masonic Fund Society from the Schenley Farms Company; and since then the wisdom of that action has been confirmed by the fact that already, due to the tremendous growth of the Scottish Rite Bodies in the Valley of Pittsburgh and the other Masonic Bodies, space in the present great Temple is already lacking, and upon the additional property bought since 1913, embracing practically the entire block bounded by Fifth, Lytton, Tennyson and Bayard avenues, there will be constructed a magnificent Scottish Rite Cathedral.

Thus, with all the preliminary matters adjusted, the real estate transfers concluded, and the style of edifice decided upon, arrangements were made for the speedy erection of the Temple. The Schenley Farms Company, who

were to put up the new structure, employed, by agreement with Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society, Benno Janssen and Franklin Abbott as the general architects, and the Trustees engaged the services of Edward Stotz, of Pittsburgh, as their consulting architect, and at a meeting of the Trustees held November 4, 1913, Brother William M. Hamilton, then a member of the Board of Trustees and D. D. Grand Master of the 28th District, was elected as the "Society's representative for the erection of the new building," thus acting in the capacity of supervisor of construction.

The announcements in the local newspapers at the time, telling of the sale of the old Freemasons Hall, the purchase of other property and the project for the erection of a great Temple aroused very general interest. In its issue of August 29, 1913, the Pittsburgh "Gazette-Times" had this to say:

Prominent contractors are here from leading cities figuring on plans and specifications for the new $1,000,000 Masonic Temple, which will have a large ground area at the corner of Fifth, Lytton and Tennyson avenues. Plans and specifications for the building on which the architects, Janssen & Abbott, have been at work for six months, have been completed and approved. The character of the construction makes the building a desirable type of work, and much interest is being taken in the contract by the foremost builders. The locating of and arranging for this structure realizes the dream of the various Masonic Bodies that a central Temple should be established suffciently large to meet all needs, and at the same time be monumental in character. The site purchased for the building is 240 feet square. The structure will practically cover the entire space and will be of granite, light in color, it being the aim of the Masonic Fraternity that their building should fit in with the great architectural group of educational and semi-public buildings in the Schenley Park district. The Masonic Fraternity have not only shown their faith in the growth of Pittsburgh, but have also given evidence of their progressive spirit in arranging an enterprise which will cost when completed $1,500,000.

So the work of construction made satisfactory advances and a report of the progress of the undertaking made to the Masonic Fund Society January 28, 1914, had the following:

The growing interest evinced by the members of the Fraternity in the new building, and the bright prospects for the establishment

of quite a number of new Bodies, confirm the wisdom of your Society in thus providing for the comfort and welfare and for the future growth of the Craft.

With simple ceremonies ground had been broken for the foundation late in the year 1913, and the pick and shovel used on that occasion had been furnished by Lodge 45, the oldest, and Geter C. Shidle Lodge, No. 650, then the youngest, lodge in Pittsburgh. In their minutes of a meeting of the Trustees held August 5, 1915, is the following in connection with the above:

The president stated that the Masters and Secretaries of Lodges Nos. 45 and 650 had called on him and William M. Hamilton on behalf of Lodges 45 and 650 to present to the Society a pick and shovel as used in breaking ground for the new Temple; and that they would have the same nickle plated and turn the same over to the Society for safe keeping.

And the turf having been pierced and shoveled away with the aid of these two implements, they now, as treasured mementoes of the occasion, hang conspicuously on the wall in the Museum room of the Temple.

Work on the building having reached the point for the laying of the corner stone, the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society decided to signalize that event by impressive and elaborate ceremonies, and they fixed March 10, 1914, as the date. At a meeting February 3, 1914, the Trustees directed the secretary to "request the R. W. Grand Master to perform the ceremony," and at a meeting the next day Brothers Alfred S. Bishop, William M. Hamilton and Andrew D. Armstrong were named as a committee, "with power to add to their number," to arrange for the laying of the stone. This notable event took place upon the date selected. To the committee named above were added a number of other Masons, and the entire committee, as constituted, met for business on February 5, 1914, as follows:

J. Harvey Harrison	Lodge No. 321
William D. McIlroy	" " 219
James McClaren	" " 223
Samuel Hamilton	" " 510
M. Wilson Stewart	" " 275
James I. Buchanan	" " 219
Alfred S. Bishop	" " 221
Andrew D. Armstrong	" " 287
Frank D. Hartman	" " 219

Theodore A. Motherell	"	"	374
Joseph E. Lewis	"	"	390
William H. Davis	"	"	287
Joseph S. Alexander	"	"	321
Eli Edmundson, Jr.	"	"	221
William M. Hamilton	"	"	576
Rowland S. Wilson	"	"	45
Americus V. Holmes	"	"	508
Harry M. Landis	"	"	219
George W. Gosser	"	"	508
James B. Youngson	"	"	219
Benjamin N. McClain	"	"	525

Brother William M. Hamilton was elected chairman of this general committee and Brother Andrew D. Armstrong was made secretary. As there was much and varied work to do in connection with the arrangement of the ceremonies, the procession and other matters, the auditorium in the Soldiers Memorial Building nearby was rented for the use of the committee, by which organization various sub-committees were named. To the Committee on Programme and Entertainment was given the task of "entertaining all of the Grand Lodge officers from the time they arrive in the city until the services are concluded." With much detail the dress of the brethren who would be in the procession was arranged, as follows:

The dress will be in accordance with the instructions of the Deputy Grand Master, viz: Dark clothing, black tie, black shoes, white gloves and white lambskin aprons. Masters, Wardens, Secretaries, Treasurers and Past Masters will wear black silk hats. All other members will wear black derby hats. Masters, Wardens, Secretaries, Treasurers and Past Masters will wear their respective jewels on the left lapel of the coat. Collars will not be worn.

March 10, 1914, when the great corner stone of the splendid Temple was laid will be a life-long memory to the brethren who participated in the solemn ceremonies. Over 10,000 Masons formed the great procession and thousands of the population of Pittsburgh and other places thronged the streets adjacent to the Temple. The weather was clear and the March air was a nipping one. But the brethren were in a joyous frame of mind and their contentment was not marred by cold weather or by an untoward event. The rendezvous for the Masons who were to constitute the pro-

cession was in a vast frame building at Bellefield avenue and Forbes street, which had been the "Tabernacle" wherein for weeks before Billy Sunday, the evangelist, had held forth. The building had been purchased by Brother John Eichleay, Jr., of Lodge 45, and he had turned it over to the Masons for the day. Many leading Masons from different parts of the country were present. The R. W. Grand Master, the late and greatly lamented Brother J. Henry Williams, had come to Pittsburgh, accompanied by a large retinue of Present and Past Grand Lodge Officers. The ceremonies were conducted mainly on an extensive platform erected by the side of the corner stone. On this platform stood the R. W. Grand Master and the other officiating officers, while a vast crowd of the brethren thronged around. The Grand Lodge officers who conducted the ceremnoies were as follows:

Brother J. Henry Williams, Right Worshipful Grand Master.

Brother Louis R. Watres, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master.

Brother James B. Krause, Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden.

Brother John S. Sell, Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden.

Brother William B. Hackenburg, Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer.

Brother John A. Perry, Right Worshipful Grand Secretary.

Brother Edgar A. Tennis,
Brother George W. Kendrick, Jr.,
Brother George B. Orlady,
Brother George W. Guthrie,
Brother William L. Gorgas,
} Right Worshipful Past Grand Masters.

Brother Grafton T. Reynolds,
Brother Maitland Alexander,
Brother J. Leonard Levy,
Brother Cortland Whitehead,
Brother Joseph W. Miles,
} Grand Chaplains.

Brother George B. Wells, Senior Grand Deacon.
Brother William H. Wren, Junior Grand Deacon.

Brother William H. Painter,
Brother Horace E. Campbell,
} Grand Stewards.

Brother J. Warner Hutchins, Grand Marshal.
Brother Charles M. Clement, Grand Sword Bearer.
Brother August P. Kunzig, Grand Pursuivant.
Brother William B. Joslyn, Grand Tyler.

The procession moved from the big "Tabernacle" at precisely 11 o'clock A. M., with Brother William H. Davis as Chief Marshal. When the head of the procession reached the west end of the platform prepared for the Grand Lodge at the corner stone, it halted and the ranks opened to the right and left, facing inward, and the brethren uncovered. Then R. W. Grand Master J. Henry Williams, preceded by Grand Sword Bearer Charles M. Clement, and followed by the officers of the Grand Lodge and the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society, advanced, in reverse order, through the open ranks to the East of the platform where a band was stationed. Reaching the platform, the Grand Master assumed his station, as did the officers of the Grand Lodge. On the north side of the platform were grouped, among others, the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society, the Mayor of Pittsburgh, the architects and others connected with the construction of the Temple. Then followed the ancient and impressive ceremonies peculiar to an event so Masonically significant. After the documents, coins and other articles had been deposited in the box by the Grand Treasurer, it was sealed and then placed by that officer in the cavity in the corner stone, amidst the impressive silence of the vast throng. The oration was delivered by Brother Jesse E. B. Cunningham, of Pittsburgh, and then with a solemn benediction, the services ended.

The following account of the formation of the great procession and the march was made by the Committee on Formation and Movement, which comprised Brother William H. Davis, chairman, Brothers Joseph E. Lewis and Eli Edmundson, Jr.:

Seventy-one lodges participated in the ceremonies. Approximately 10,000 members of the Craft were assembled in these lodges. A count was not made. The figures given are based on the reports made by the marshals of the lodges when ready to move. Without exception every lodge appeared with larger numbers than had been first estimated. The Craft was assembled in the tabernacle at Bellefield avenue and Forbes street. This building, temporary in character, had been purchased by Brother John Eichleay, Jr., of Lodge 45. Through his kindness and generosity its use was given to your committee. It furnishes ample accommodations for assembling all the lodges in dry, protected and comfortable quarters.

At the hour set, 11 A. M., the column was put in motion, in

accordance with the ancient landmarks, the brethren walking in procession two by two. Brother Robert Swan, of St. John's Lodge, No. 219, the Director of Public Works of Pittsburgh, had cleaned the streets over which the procession was to pass, as far as possible. The snow and ice had been hauled away, when this could be done, and sawdust spread over the entire route. This added greatly to the comfort of the brethren and took from the long march all its unpleasant features. Your committee submits a resolution, thanking Brother Swan for his assistance.

The procession left the tabernacle at 11 A. M., and its head reached the Temple site at 11:25 A. M. It required an hour and twenty minutes for the brethren to march out of the tabernacle. When the Grand Lodge left the Tabernacle the lines had been formed. They reached from the site of the Temple along Lytton avenue, Fifth avenue, Thackery avenue, Bayard avenue, Dithridge street, Fifth avenue and Bellefield avenue, a distance of a little more than 8,000 feet, the brethren touching elbow to elbow. The Grand Lodge entered the lines at 12:20 P. M., passed through and reached the platform, where the Grand Lodge Room had been set, at 12:50 P. M. The lodges, which had marched in reverse order, successively passed through the lines from rear to front, and the procession was dismissed at 1:55 P. M.

In closing this report your committee desires to make acknowledgment of the courtesy extended to it by the brethren, the ready acquiescence to every request, the assistance given in making the procession a successful demonstration of the strength of the Order, and the cheerful patience manifested during the long wait which was a necessary feature in moving a column of 10,000 men over more than a mile of icy streets.

Much interest was taken in the records, emblems, coins, etc., which were deposited in the corner stone of the great Temple. Chief of these articles, which in future times, if the present edifice is ever torn down, will be treasured as of great historic value, was the splendidly engraved copper plate, with its various inscriptions, which are as follows:

FAITH HOPE CHARITY.

A. D. 1850 A. L. 5850.

First building, Masonic Hall, Fifth Street, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Corner-stone of this building, erected by the Masonic Fund Society, was laid on the 4th of July, in the 74th year of American Independence.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Bro. James W. Hailman, President
" James S. Hoon, Treasurer
" Samuel McKinley, Secretary

" W. J. Davitt,
" George W. Layng,
" James Shidle.

This building was destroyed by fire August 12th, A. D. 1887, A. L. 5887.

A. D. 1888. A. L. 5888.

Second building, Freemasons Hall, same location as above.

The Corner-stone of this building, erected by the Masonic Fund Society, was laid on the 11th day of September, in the 112th year of American Independence, by Joseph Eichbaum, R. W. Grand Master of Masons for the State of Pennsylvania.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

George Glass, President
James Herdman, Treasurer
A. M. Pollock, M. D., Secretary
William G. McCandless,
Geter C. Shidle,
George T. Oliver,
Charles C. Baer.

This building was sold September 16th, A. D. 1913, A. L. 5913.

A. D. 1914. A. L. 5914.

Third building, Masonic Temple, Fifth—Lytton and Tennyson Avenues, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Corner-stone of this building, erected by the Masonic Fund Society, was laid on the 10th day of March, in the 138th year of American Independence, by J. Henry Williams, R. W. Grand Master of Masons, in Pennsylvania.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Alfred S. Bishop, President
Americus V. Holmes, Treasurer
Andrew D. Armstrong, Secretary
Harry M. Landis,
Joseph E. Lewis,
William M. Hamilton,
Rowland S. Wilson.

WISDOM STRENGTH BEAUTY

Janssen & Abbott, Architects
Edward Stotz, Consulting Architect
Schenley Farms Co., Builders
George Hogg Co., General Contractors.

BUILDING COMMITTEE.

Alfred S. Bishop
William M. Hamilton
Frank D. Hartman.
Amariah J. Lohr, Chief of Construction
William M. Hamilton, Clerk of the Work.

Within the box placed in the cavity of the corner stone was deposited a handsomely bound Bible, in which was written the following inscription:

> Deposited by the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny, March 10th, A. D. 1914, A. L. 5914, as an evidence of the firm belief of the Masonic Fraternity in the unchangeable truths contained herein.

Other articles deposited in the corner stone were as follows:

The Ahiman Rezon; the following coins: A dollar, half dollar, quarter, a dime, a nickle, and a cent. Articles given by Masonic Bodies: By Lodge 45, a History of Lodge 45 from 1785 to 1910; by St. John's Lodge, No. 219; a silver apron, list of officers and lodge notice; by Franklin Lodge, No. 221, engraved silver plate, with design of Altar and Bible; by Milnor Lodge, No. 287, engraved silver book, with list of officers and a copy of their Constitution; by Hailman Lodge, No. 321, copper plate with landscape engraving; by Dallas Lodge, No. 508, History of the lodge, by-laws and list of officers; by Guyasuta Lodge, No. 513, brass plate with name of officers; by Oakland Lodge, No. 535, silver plate with list of officers; by Duquesne Lodge, No. 546, silver dollar of the Centennial year, 1876, and list of officers; by Fort Pitt Lodge, No. 634, copper plate with "Fort Pitt" design, and list of officers; by Homewood Lodge, No. 635, roster of officers, by-laws and engraved copper plate; by Stucjrath Lodge, No. 430, master's jewel engraved, and list of officers; by Ionic Lodge, No. 525, a list of officers on engraved brass plate; by Braddock Field Lodge, No. 510, silver medal, Masonic emblems and list of officers; by Lafayette Lodge, No. 652, silver plate with lodge emblem; Coraopolis Lodge, No. 674, lodge notice on a scroll and list of officers; by MsKeesport Lodge, No. 641, officers and lodge notice on a scroll; by Valley Lodge, No. 613, list of officers

on scroll; by Shiloh Chapter, No. 257, engraved silver keystone, and list of officers; by Tancred Commandery, No. 48, engraved silver plate with Tent and Pilgrim thereon, badge and list of officers; by Duquesne Commandery, No. 72, Commandery badge, by-laws and notices; by Ascalon Commandery, No. 59, Commandery badge and notices; by Chartiers Commandery, No. 78, Commandery badge, bronze banner and list of officers; by the A. A. S. R., Valley of Pittsburgh, notice of annual Reunion of 1913, Report of Supreme Council of 100th anniversary, Report of Council of Deliberation for 1913, Plan of Schenley Farms and Address of William M. Hamilton before Masonic Library Association. Other Other Masonic Bodies which deposited notices and other lodge records, were the following: Solomon Lodge, No. 231; Monongahela Lodge, No. 269; Washington Lodge, No. 255; McCandless Lodge, No. 390; Pittsburgh Lodge, No. 484; Avalon Lodge, No. 657; Crescent Lodge, No. 576; Geter C. Shidle Lodge, No. 650; Allegheny Lodge, No. 223; Davage Lodge, No. 374; Centennial Lodge, No. 544; Bellevue Lodge, No. 530; Crafton Lodge, No. 653; Homestead Lodge, No. 582; Corinthian Lodge, No. 573; Alliquippa Lodge, No. 375; Youghiogheny Lodge, No. 583; Oakdale Lodge, No. 669; Doric Lodge, No. 630; Swissvale Lodge, No. 656; Pollock Lodge, No. 502; Verona Lodge, No. 548; Orient Lodge, No. 590; Beta Lodge, No. 647; Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162; Allegheny Chapter, No. 217; Pittsburgh Chapter, No. 268; McKeesport Chapter, No. 282; Wilkinsburg Chapter, No. 285; Bellevue Chapter, No. 286; Mizpah Chapter, No. 288; Valley Chapter, No. 289; Homewood Chapter, No. 297; Mt. Moriah Council, No. 2; Allegheny Council, No. 38; Pittsburgh Commandery, No. 1, K. T.; Allegheny Commandery, No. 35, K. T.; McKeesport Commandery, No. 86, K. T.

And finally over the box and the above mentioned articles, was carefully draped a large and beautiful silken American flag.

In the local newspapers were published at the time interesting descriptions, highly eulogistic of the great accomplishment of the Masonic Fraternity. In its issue of March 11, 1914, the Pittsburgh "Gazette-Times" said:

More than 12,000 people, including over 9,000 members of the

Masonic Order in the Pittsburgh district gathered at Fifth and Lytton avenues yesterday and participated in the imposing ceremonies attending the laying of the corner stone of the new Masonic Temple. A number of the prominent men in the Masonic fraternity of America were in attendance, and the formalities consisted of customs that have been in use since Masonry had its birth. The Temple when completed will represent an outlay of more than $1,500,000. The Billy Sunday tabernacle at Forbes street and Bellefield avenue was used as a gathering place for the Masons attending the ceremony. The procession presented a splendid appearance, each participant being dressed in accordance with the instructions of the D. D. Grand Master.

In an appreciative editorial the same paper said:

The structure adds another monumental edifice to the unequalled group with which that part of Pittsburgh has been improved and embellished. In its strength and beauty, its dignified and chaste lines, its classic design and the enduring character of its structural details, this Masonic Temple accurately typifies the wonderful organization for whose accommodation it is being erected; and it must ever stand as a credit to the community and to the Society which is building it. Its significance in civic life was evidenced by the admirably large turnout of members from so many lodges and sections of this vicinity as were found in line yesterday.

In an editorial the Pittsburgh "Post" of March 10, 1914, gave expression to these fine sentiments:

The laying of the corner stone of the new Masonic Temple today will mark another important step in the material development of Pittsburgh. It means that a section of the city, already noted for architectural grandeur, is to be further beautified by the addition of a Masonic building that will rank with the finest in the United States, a distinction that will excite the pride of every Pittsburgher, whether a member of the fraternity or not. The Masonic Fraternity occupies a large space in the history of Pittsburgh, its influence having been a factor in our local progress for more than a century. Citizens regardless of creed or affiliations take pride in the thought that this Temple will add so much to the prestige of Pittsburgh.

With the corner stone of the Temple laid under such auspicious circumstances, work on the structure was pushed forward rapidly. By June first, 1914, the great steel girders and supports were in place to the fifth floor, seven of the twelve immense roof trusses were raised and a great deal of the interior work was completed. Estimates were being made at this date for the extensive equipment of the building, and the elaborateness and extent of these appointments may be judged by the announcement made at a meet-

ing of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society on June 2, 1914, that the equipment for the kitchen alone would reach $6,500. Twelve months later the great edifice was completed, this important announcement being made formally to the Board of Trustees in a report dated July 25, 1915, by Brother William M. Hamilton, in which he expressed his great satisfaction over the completion of the Temple and resigned from his position as supervisor of construction.

The first lodge to meet in the new building was of course old Lodge 45. They had asked for and secured this signal privilege, thus adding another honor to their ancient fame, as they had done in the past when they were the first to hold a lodge meeting in the hall dedicated in 1851 and in that opened to the brethren in 1889. This meeting of Lodge 45 in the present Temple was held Friday evening, February 26, 1915. It was a memorable Masonic event. Among the brethren present were the members of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society, and there was a rich programme of addresses and music. Brother Robert Schweppe, W. M. of Lodge 45, made the address of welcome, and an address was delivered by Brother Samuel B. McCormick, D. D., LL.D., at that time Chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh. Other speakers were the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society and Brother Frederick C. Rommel, P. M. of Lodge 45.

Within a short time nearly all the Masonic Bodies within the limits of the city of Pittsburgh were domiciled in the new Temple, and there they found accommodations ample, appropriate and attractive. As had been expected, the completion of the Temple gave an impetus to the movement towards the formation of new lodges and within two years a number of lodges were added to the fraternity in Pittsburgh. By the year 1922, to which period this history extends, the following Masonic Bodies were occupying the Temple:

Lodge 45; Franklin Lodge, No. 221; Solomon Lodge, No. 231; Washington Lodge, No. 253; Milnor Lodge No. 287; McCandless Lodge, No. 390; Pittsburgh Lodge, No. 484; Dallas Lodge, No. 508; Oakland Lodge, No. 535; Cres-

cent Lodge, No. 576; Geter C. Shidle Lodge, No. 650; Temple Lodge, No. 678; Fellowship Lodge, No. 679; Bellefield Lodge, No. 680; George W. Guthrie Lodge, No. 691; Sojourners Lodge, No. 693; Loyalty Lodge, No. 699; Theodore Roosevelt Lodge, No. 697; Fraternity Lodge, No. 705.

The following R. A. Chapters:

Zerubabbel Chapter, No. 162; Duquesne Chapter, No. 193; Shiloh Chapter, No. 257; Bellefield Chapter, No. 299; and the Chapter School of Instruction.

The following Councils, R. and S. Masons:

Mt. Moriah Council, No. 2.

The following Commanderies, K. T.:

Pittsburgh Commandery, No. 1; Tancred Commandery, No. 48; Ascalon Commandery, No. 59.

The Pittsburgh Lodge of Instruction.

The following Bodies of the A. A. S. R. in the Valley of Pittsburgh:

Gourgas Lodge of Perfection; Pennsylvania Council of Princes of Jerusalem; Pittsburgh Chapter Rose Croix; the Pennsylvania Consistory.

The Association of Masonic Veterans of Western Pennsylvania.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

And so the great Masonic Temple of Pittsburgh was built and piously dedicated, and so it stands today—massive and imposing, richly and eloquently symbolic of the power, the dignity and the sublime teachings of the Craft. It is a Masonic center where night after night the brethren foregather to exemplify the ancient, yet ever living, lessons of Masonry which have always taught, as they must ever teach, helpfulness and sacrifice in the cause of humanity; sincerity and devotion in the cause of God. Here year after year the great Bodies of the Scottish Rite of the Valley of Pittsburgh convene in their notable Reunions, which are also times of joyous renewal of old ties of friendship and of brotherhood.

And so there have been many memorable gatherings of the brethren in this spacious edifice. But, in addition, there came a time in very recent years, when this Temple of Masonry was devoted to far other purposes than the

brethren had in contemplation when they raised its stately walls. Devoted to the teachings and blessings of peace, almost in a day its doors were thrown open, generously and patriotically, to the dread cause of war. Thus it came about that within the walls of our Temple of Peace the clanging noises of war were heard, armed soldiers thronged its corridors, and the trembling hands of anguished mothers lovingly prepared soft bandages to bind up the wounds of gallant sons on many a far-off battle field. In Pittsburgh our halls of Masonry have on two great occasions been turned over to the needs of war, and from those halls have gone some of the loveliest youth of the Republic, to fight and to die for the safety of the home and for the perpetuity of freedom and civilization. There still remain amongst us veterans of the great Civil war who recall the days of sixty years ago when in the bright flush of young manhood they learned their first drills on the floors of old Freemasons Hall on Fifth avenue. Those days to them are now but strange dreams—only the memory of a bitterness which kindly Time and fragrant flowers have covered over with forgiveness and united American patriotism.

And then there came, so short a while ago, even more direful days. Germany had let loose upon the world her destructive hordes, and on April 6, 1917, the United States took their righteous stand against the wild and terrible onslaught. We pledged all our people and all our resources to the sacred cause of the allied nations. We prepared to send, and we did send, millions of our splendid young soldiers to the Old World. That vast action involved vast labor. Our millions of soldiers had to be drilled, instructed and housed, and immense efforts made for their welfare at home and abroad. The city of Pittsburgh opened her gates, and to further carry on the great labors, her churches, her public buildings and the buildings of numerous organizations were turned into homes for soldiers and workshops for war workers. Labor and space were needed on every hand. And then the patriotism and the hospitality of the Masonic Fraternity bloomed forth in all their gracious readiness. The doors of their great Temple in Pittsburgh were flung wide open. Like the sacred Temple of Janus in

the days of old Rome, so long as there might be war, so long would the portals of our Temple remain unclosed. And for the great work at hand the Masonic edifice was splendidly adapted, and the keen eyes of army officers were not slow to note the advantages. Within the stately structure they could comfortably house many soldiers, and on its spacious grounds outside they could teach the eager recruits the rudiments of war in the open.

But these gallant officers did not even have to ask for that chance. Upon their very first intimation, the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society eagerly told them that the building was at their disposal; and they added that if the corridors, the basement, the great dining halls were not ample enough, then the meetings of the lodges would be called off, and the lodge rooms would also be at the disposal of the Army. In May, 1917, soldiers were drilling on the grounds in the rear of the Temple; and even before that date more than 400 young recruits of the Radio Detachment were quartered in the Temple. The Board of Trustees at this time comprised the following: President, George W. McCandless; Treasurer, George W. Wilson; Secretary, Fager J. Shidle; and William Best, Taylor Allderdice, Joseph Lewis and Alfred S. Bishop. The earnestness and readiness with which they met the big demands of the time may be seen by reference to the following record of one of their sessions:

Resolved, (and unanimously carried) that the Chairman of the House Committee be given full power to make such arrangements as he may think best regarding the housing of soldiers, and that the other members of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society assist him in this work while said soldiers are located in the Masonic Temple.

And another record reads:

The president stated that the purpose of this meeting was to consider the matter of the United States Government being granted the banquet room, the mezzanine floor and billiard room for lodging the soldiers of the National Army.

Affirmative action on the above was unanimously taken, and in addition to those parts of the Temple mentioned in the resolution, the spacious Library room and the Museum apartment were placed at the disposal of the army

officers for their headquarters. Many arrangements were made for the comfort of the soldiers, among them the installation in the basement of the Temple of good shower baths.

So for many weeks up to the day of the Armistice the rooms and corridors of the massive Temple resounded with the stern commands of officers and the gay chatter of those gallant boys who were, in addition to their drilling, receiving instructions in Radio Mechanics in the Carnegie Institute of Technology nearby. The senior officer then in command was Captain Hamner Huston, a West Point graduate, an efficient officer and gentleman, whose sincere appreciation of the help of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society was no less obvious than was his splendid devotion to the big task of fitting the young soldiers for the terrible ordeal of actual war. He had an able and popular assistant in the person of Adjutant Dormer. Captain Huston had his headquarters in the Library room of the Masonic Temple, which was fitted up expressly for that purpose, and there could be seen in those days the upstanding, soldierly figures of commissioned and non-commissioned officers giving their quick salutes and making their prompt reports, or indulging, when relaxed discipline permitted, in youthful bandiage or in earnest talk about the tremendous events transpiring "over there." In all, several thousand soldiers were quartered in the Masonic Temple at different times. Early in the year 1918 came Col. John C. W. Brooks, who had been with Pershing at West Point in their cadet days, and had served gallantly in Cuba in the Spanish-American war, and in the Boxer uprising in China and later had been in the Phillipines. It never required much formal negotiation between the officers and the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society to keep things in smooth working order about the Temple and they were pleasantly aided by the courteous help of Mr. Frank Orbin, then, as now, business manager of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, who as the representative of that institution in which the soldiers were being taught the mechanics of war, helped in arranging for the quartering of the troops in the Masonic Temple.

But there was still another fine phase of war work going on at the same time in our Temple. Devoted women of the American Red Cross, many in number and constant in duty, gave their services unstintingly. The Eastern Star branch of the Red Cross had been organized and to them the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society granted the use of the Ladies Reception room in the Temple, properly furnished without of course any cost to the workers. They raised money for war work equipment from Masonic Bodies, from charity funds and from other generous sources. They were equipped with sewing, knitting and cutting machines, and all sorts of devices to expedite their work. To the comfort of the soldier boys these patriotic mothers and sisters devoted themselves untiringly. In the Temple the boys often had lunch with them, often they were taken to pleasant homes for a Sunday dinner, and gay automobile rides helped to drive away the heavy thoughts of the coming days of danger and misery in France. Statistics need not be cold and unmeaning when used to express the volume of war work wrought within the walls of the Masonic Temple by these earnest women. They sent to the Red Cross headquarters in Pittsburgh 1,000,000 bandages, surgical dressings and front line packets; 10,000 pairs of socks; 2,350 sweaters; 472 scarfs; 175 ambulance blankets; 2,204 night shirts; 800 pairs of pajamas; 7,000 towels; 700 sheets, and hospital gowns by the thousands. In addition there were many garments made for women workers in the camps and also 325 layettes containing complete outfits for new born babes.

When at last the war was ended by the signing of the Armistice on November 11, 1918, the great and good work in the Masonic Temple was brought to a close. The elaborate Red Cross working equipment was disposed of by sale, and the proceeds of this sale and all the money still in the treasury of the women workers in the Temple were turned into the headquarters of the American Red Cross in Pittsburgh.

Thus came to a triumphant end the productive war work in our home of Masonry. The great Temple had been a Soldiers Home, not indeed for maimed and aged veterans,

but for thousands of the gallant youth of the land, many of them brethren of our world-wide Masonic Craft, who were to stand, a living and unbending bulwark across all of France. And many of these dear boys who departed from the halls of our Masonic Temple with laughter on their lips and high purpose in their young souls were carried into the very vortex of that awful conflict in France, to battle and to fall in glorious death, where the old stone homes of St. Miheil crumbled beneath the thunders of the German guns, or on the wooded slopes of the Argonne, torn by wars for a thousand years past, or along the marshy heights of the placid Meuse, giving for all time to come beautiful examples of devotion to a holy cause. On the hillsides and in the rocky valleys they buried these dear forms, and as they laid them down upon Mother Earth, each young hero sank to his eternal rest with only a muttered prayer from his living comrades and a little word of farewell, and with no solemn roll of drum:—

And no useless coffin enclosed his breast,
Nor in sheet nor in shroud we wound him;
For he lay like a warrior taking his rest,
With his martial cloak around him.

Sadly and slowly we laid him down,
From the field of his fame fresh and gory.
We carved not a line, we raised not a stone,
But left him—alone in his glory.

CHAPTER VII.

OLD FIFTH DISTRICT AND D. D. GRAND MASTERS.

Creators of the M. F. S. Take Notable Part in Early Masonic Activities—Establishment of the Ancient Fifth (Allegheny) District—Dismemberment of the District and the Historical Negotiations for its Reestablishment—30 Years of Agitation for the Appointment of D. D. G. Masters—Origin and Designations of the First Districts in Pennsylvania and Selection of First Deputies—Pittsburgh Masons Take Up Matter with Grand Lodge—Onward March of the Fraternity.

THE long and careful research among old publications, records and documents, which was necessary to procure material for a true and complete narrative of the origin and achievements of the Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny, led to very important discoveries. It developed the fact, as shown in the preceding chapters, that not only have the successive Boards of Trustees of the Society been great factors in the promotion of the growth of the Masonic Order in Western Pennsylvania, but also that the originators of the Society and figured largely in a remarkable historical movement. The early leaders of Masonry in Allegheny county, and particularly those enterprising Pittsburgh brethren who were the builders of the Masonic Fund Society, had always concerned themselves with the different phases of the Masonic organization and had taken a personal interest in all its various activities. They were loyal and powerful supporters of the Grand Lodge and they were always at the front when the interests of Masonry in Western Pennsylvania were at stake. And so it came about that through their firm stand and intelligent aid the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania was enabled to establish, more than three-quarters of a century ago, a fixed policy for the location and designation of Districts, the appointment of D. D. Grand Masters and the settlement of the extent and limitations of their duties and powers. It is an interesting and historically valuable chapter in the development of Masonry in the Keystone State and one that has heretofore received scant attention.

There had come a day in the year 1846 when the brethren of Pittsburgh reached the conclusion that the Grand Lodge was not altogether mindful of their necessities and of their importance. For a period of nearly 25 years their county of Allegheny had had a District Deputy Grand Master in what was known as the Fifth District. But in 1846, by a decree of the Grand Master, that arrangement had been ended. That is to say, there was to be no longer a District Deputy Grand Master resident of Allegheny county. It was a deprivation that brought chagrin, as well as inconvenience. For in those pioneer days of sparse population, remote lodge locations and difficult means of communicating with the Grand Lodge, a District Deputy Grand Master, while perhaps not of more importance, was really of greater necessity than in our days of speedy travel and easy postal communication.

But there was a big phase of this subject that went far deeper into the Masonic interests and destinies of those early brethren than merely the continued appointment of a resident Allegheny county Mason for District Deputy. The very existence of their entire Fifth District was at stake. In fact, it was on the verge of annihilation; for it had been in the mind for some time past of the then R. W. Grand Master, Brother William Barger, that not only should Allegheny county be annexed to the district comprising the counties of Fayette and Greene, but that the ancient Fifth District itself, with its center in Pittsburgh, should be rendered non-existent. The Allegheny county brethren took a firm, united, yet wholly respectful, stand against this action. They felt that having built up, upheld and rendered eminent, through good and evil days, the Order in their vast and remote county, not only its progress, but its very Masonic life depended upon a close working connection with the Grand Lodge—a connection which could be maintained only by the existence of a District that would have their county as its center and be directed by a District Deputy whose residence should be in Pittsburgh.

It is to be remembered that already during a period of nearly a quarter of a century Allegheny county had been the chief territory in the Fifth District and the District

Deputy had been regularly appointed from the city of Pittsburgh. The first District Deputy in Allegheny county had been named as far back as 1823. In the minutes of the Quarterly Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge at Philadelphia, January 5, 1824, an entry was made of the appointment of Morgan Neville, as D. D. Grand Master.

The creation of these Districts and the appointment of D. D. Grand Masters are in our days such ordinary matters of Masonic administration within the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania that we are apt to think that not much interest could attach to the establishment of the first Districts and the appointment of the first District Deputies. But an examination of the old records will thoroughly disabuse the mind of that impression. It was a big and perplexing question, and many years had to elapse before it was finally and satisfactorily settled. In that settlement Pittsburgh Masons of the early days figured very prominently. We therefore propose here to trace the successive developments by which Allegheny county gained her first District and her first District Deputy, then lost the office, and finally the entire district; and then regained both (never again to lose them), through the energetic action of three of the subsequent creators of the Masonic Fund Society, Brothers Alexander Tindle, George Layng and William W. Wilson. They were, of course, earnestly supported by other brethren of their community.

Apparently the first D. D. Grand Masters within the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania were appointed in the year 1822. But long prior to that date, as is evident from minutes of Grand Lodge proceedings, the need for these officers had become insistent. Even back so far as the year 1789 the accurate discernment of the Grand Lodge officers and of the then R. W. Grand Master, Brother Jonathan B. Smith, noted the growing necessity for the establishment of the office of District Deputy. For we find at least the germ of the idea embodied in the new "Rules and Regulations for the Government of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania," adopted by that Body December 27, 1789, in these words:

The Grand Master, with his deputy, the Grand Wardens, and Grand Secretary, shall go around and visit all the lodges under his

jurisdiction, or when this duty becomes impracticable, he shall, as often as necessary, appoint visitors of different districts, composed of his Grand Officers, or such other brethren as he may think proper, who shall faithfully report their proceedings to the Grand Lodge, according to instructions given them.

The phrase, "such other brethren as he may think proper," seems to imply that designations might be made outside of Grand Lodge officers of brethren "to go around and visit all the lodges." However, down through a period of twenty years from 1789 no definite action, certainly no official steps were taken towards the actual creation of the office of D. D. Grand Master. Yet it could have been done, for by the year 1789 the Pennsylvania Masons were living and progressing under the sovereignty of the new Republic of the United States. With the triumph of the Revolutionary War the old Provincial Grand Lodge, acting by virtue of Warrant from the Grand Lodge of England, had gone out of existence in 1786. The Pennsylvania Grand Body was therefore free to start, as it did start, on that sun-lit highway of progress and of influence which her stately steps have followed to this day.

But it was not until the year 1811 that another practical move was made toward the appointment of regular official district deputies. In his address before the Grand Quarterly Communication held October 21, 1811, that very notable brother, the R. W. Grand Master James Milnor, made this important declaration:

I would earnestly recommend it to you to consider, as soon as possible, whether it would not be expedient to nominate some respectable brethren to act as District Deputy Grand Masters or Inspectors over the alloted portions of our Masonic jurisdiction. This plan, though new to us, has long prevailed in the Eastern States and has redounded greatly to the spread of Masonry, and the good order and discipline of lodges placed by their local situation beyond the immediate observation of the parent Grand Lodge.

This recommendation and argument from so high and trusted a source brought about practical results the next year. At an adjourned Quarterly Grand Communication, January 6, 1812, a committee was appointed by the R. W. Grand Master to examine and report on the state of the country lodges (those outside of Philadelphia), and upon the advisability of naming D. D. Grand Masters. The

Report of this Committee was referred to another committee comprising Brothers Peter Le Barbier Duplessis and Samuel F. Bradford. Brother Bradford was a prominent citizen and Mason of Philadelphia and Brother Duplessis, who had been the R. W. Deputy Grand Master in 1811, was now in 1812 the R. W. Grand Master. He had been elected Grand Secretary in 1789 and was active in the Grand Lodge through the long period of thirty years. In their report Brothers Duplessis and Bradford say:

They find that many of the country lodges have been very dilatory in making returns and remitting annual dues. That several lodges have been vacated whose jewels, warrants, etc., could not be obtained. That several have discontinued their meetings and several were in arrears with the Grand Lodge at the time the said Reports were made, and are so now, though a few have settled their accounts of dues, or in part since that time. That all the delinquent lodges have been notified by Bro. Grand Secretary.

Your Committee are convinced that many of the lodges have neglected their duties towards the Grand Lodge through ignorance, and for want of having received that incitement which is generally the result of Grand Visitations, where the wrongs are pointed out, duties are explained, and the consequence is a reviving of zeal and determination to comply with everything that is required by the Constitution.

Your Committee do perfectly agree with the R. W. Grand Master in the propriety and even the necessity of appointing District Deputy Grand Masters or Inspectors, but they cannot pretend to say how many should be appointed and are of opinion that it would be better to leave it to the discretion of the R. W. Grand Master.

Your Committee begs leave to submit the following resolution:

"Resolved, that the R. W. Grand Master be respectfully requested to appoint such number of District Deputies or Inspectors, as in his wisdom he shall think proper and sufficient, to visit the country lodges, whose duties shall be to make Grand Visitations to the Lodges in their several Districts as soon as possible, then and there to examine into the state of said lodges, their manner of working, correct their errors, to comply with all further directions which shall from time to time be given to them by the R. W. Grand Master or the Grand Lodge, and to make report of their proceedings at the Grand Communications in June and December in each and every year.

Here indeed was ground for immediate action, but even the emphatic recommendations of the committee backed by the favor of the R. W. Grand Master was not sufficient to bring practical advancement in the matter of appointing D. D. Grand Masters, and the question was again left

in abeyance. There is one probable reason for this inaction. It is very likely that the Grand Master was finding it next to impossible to secure the assent of experienced Masons to accept the appointment of District Deputy in the interior of the State, with the lodges so widely apart and so difficult to reach. But five years later Lodge No. 1 at Harrisburg furnished an impulse towards a prompt settlement of the matter. They sent a communication to the Grand Lodge calling attention to the lack of uniformity in the ritual work of subordinate lodges, and at the Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication in October, 1817, a resolution was adopted, in which was this provision:

> That the Grand Master be requested to divide the country Lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, into separate districts, to appoint suitable brethren to visit the different lodges, inspect their labors, and to report annually their proceedings to the Grand Lodge.

But for some reason, these resolutions were indefinitely postponed. Then three years later there came a respectful push from Pittsburgh. In the minutes of the adjourned Quarterly Communication of the Grand Body, February 7, 1820, is the following:

> A communication was received and read from Ohio Lodge, No. 113, held at Pittsburgh, relative to the establishment of a General Grand Lodge, the appointment of Lecture Masters, &c. Which was referred to the Committee appointed on St. John's Day, on the subject of the establishment of a General Grand Lodge, &c.

The movement for a "General Grand Lodge" is now only of historical importance, interesting as one of the passing Masonic episodes of the time, and the communication from the brethren of the Pittsburgh lodge brought no practical action. But the Order throughout Pennsylvania continued to grow numerically and the lodges took on additional strength and influence. Visitations between these subordinate bodies began to be more frequent, and it was seen that the dissimilarity in localities in the way of ritualistic phraseology and ceremonies was becoming more pronounced. It became urgent that closer connections with and more direct guidance by the Grand Lodge be established. The Grand Lodge was very remote from the country lodges in those days. A feeling of discontent developed, and finally came troublous times. It was a hardship for the country brethren to travel to Philadelphia; they were

out of touch with the influence of the Grand Lodge; they felt themselves to be too much alone, and finally, an unwelcome but fully justified increase in Grand Lodge dues, brought about a situation which for a time threatened disastrous consequences. The troubles, at first rather widespread, were at length centralized by the action of Lodge No. 43 at Lancaster in 1822. They sent out a circular letter to other subordinate bodies setting forth certain grievances complained of. This circular had among its signers Brother James Buchanan, afterwards President of the United States, and Brother George B. Porter, later Governor of Michigan, both Past Masters of the Lancaster Lodge. With respect to this circular, the Grand Lodge soon took emphatic and condemnatory action. The Warrants of Lodge No. 43 and of some other lodges which had acted in unison with the Lancaster brethren were called in. But the controversy went on, assuming more threatening aspects. Finally at a Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge held December 16, 1822, a "Grand Committee" was named, composed of three members of each subordinate body in the State, "to take into consideration the alleged grievances of the subordinate lodges and report what measures ought to be adopted by the Grand Lodge." This committee sat in Philadelphia from the 25th to the 28th of February, 1823, inclusive, and among its recommendations was the following:

> That once in every two years each subordinate lodge, beyond the City and County of Philadelphia, and within the Commonwealth, shall be visited by a Grand Lecturer, to be appointed in such manner as the Grand Lodge may hereafter from time to time direct; that his expenses while attending the Lodges shall be defrayed by them, and his compensation shall be paid out of the funds of the Grand Lodge, and that the first visitation shall commence in the course of the present year.

This arrangement, which was carried into effect, did not then establish the office of D. D. Grand Master, but it was soon followed by the actual creation of that office. This Report of the "Grand Committee" was so practical in its recommendations and so conciliatory in its treatment of the troubles among the subordinate lodges that within a short time peace and harmony again prevailed throughout the entire jurisdiction. And finally as a welcome result of

efforts extending over a period of thirty-five years the recommendations of Grand Masters and the requests of the country lodges were acceded to, and the office of District Deputy Grand Master was created in Pennsylvania in the year 1822. The first official mention of the office made in the Grand Lodge records is to be found in the minutes of a communication held February 3, 1825, as follows:

A letter dated Shesequin, December, 1822, from Brother Joseph Kingsbery, District Deputy Grand Master of the 4th Masonic District, presented and read.

He represented the counties of Bradford and Tioga. The next mention made is that in the minutes of the Grand Lodge Communication, December 27, 1823, where it is announced that Brother James Buchanan, then a leading lawyer at Lancaster, and later President of the United States, had been appointed D. D. Grand Master for the counties of Lancaster, Lebanon and York. It was not until January 5, 1824, that the R. W. Grand Master announced an appointment for Allegheny county. The deputy so named was Brother Morgan Neville, a resident of Pittsburgh, his District was No. 5, and it embraced an enormous stretch of Western Pennsylvania, including no less than fifteen counties. The exact words of the minutes of the Grand Lodge in recording this action are these:

The following appointments of District Deputy Grand Master, made by the R. W. Grand Master on St. John's Day last, was ordered to be entered on the minutes, viz:

Brother Morgan Neville, Esquire, of the City of Pittsburgh, for the District composed of the Counties of Westmoreland, Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington, Butler, Beaver, Venango, Warren, Crawford, Mercer, Erie, Armstrong, Jefferson and Indiana.

The other appointment announced at this time was that of Brother Garrick Mallory, Esq., of Wilkes-Barre for the counties of Luzerne, Pike, Wayne and Susquehanna.

Brother Morgan Neville, the first D. D. Grand Master appointed for the Fifth district, came from a notable family. He was a member of Ohio Lodge, No. 113, at Pittsburgh, and was Worshipful Master in that Body in 1819. He was born in Pittsburgh December 25, 1785, and was admitted to practice law in the courts of Allegheny county in 1808. In later years he removed to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he died

March 1, 1840. He was the son of Gen. Pressly Neville and the grandson of Gen. John Neville, an intimate friend of Washington, and who held command of Fort Pitt in 1774, and was later a member of the Supreme Council which was then the governing power of Pennsylvania. Brother Morgan Neville filled the office of D. D. Grand Master for only one year, and was succeeded April 7, 1825, by Brother Magnus Murray, who was also a member of Ohio Lodge, No. 113. He was a leading citizen of Pittsburgh, his father being Commander Alexander Murray of the United States Navy. He was born in Pittsburgh, February 22, 1787, and at the time of his selection as District Deputy was a prominent lawyer, having been admitted to the Bar in 1809. He was mayor of Pittsburgh in 1828-29 and in 1831. He was W. M. of Ohio Lodge, No. 113, in 1815, and was First Chief, as it was then designated, of the Chapter, H. R. A. M. in 1815. The minutes of a meeting of Lodge 45, March 31, 1824, have this entry:

> The R. W. Deputy G. M., M. Murray, Esq., was received with the grand honors in ancient form.

It is evident from Grand Lodge records that it was found difficult not only to secure efficient brethren for the positions of District Deputy; but also when they were found, the time required and inconveniences endured in reaching the lodges scattered over so wide a territory brought early resignations. Pointing out this difficulty, R. W. Grand Master James Harper in an address at a Grand Communication held December 5, 1825, said:

> Much good may be attributed to the appointment of District Deputy Grand Masters; but considerable difficulty has occurred in making these appointments, owing to the very few persons who could be found that would accept of the appointment, who were capable of discharging the duties of the situation with advantage to all concerned.

It is not surprising, then, to note that both Brothers Neville and Murray were unable to continue in an office which required so much of their time and a good deal of absence from home. Brother Murray was succeeded as District Deputy in 1826 by Brother Charles Shaler, who was then, at the age of 34 years, very prominent in Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania as a lawyer, jurist and orator.

He had been in 1822-23 W. M. of Lodge 45 and in 1824 had become a member of Chapter No. 113, R. A. M., held in Pittsburgh. There is no official announcement in the published records of the Grand Lodge as to the appointment of Brother Shaler, but there is this first record of May 7, 1827:

Fifth District: Annual Report of Bro. Chas. Shaler, D. D. G. M., date 20 December, 1826. Return of Dispensations issued by the same in 1826.

A press of professional duties compelled Brother Shaler to refuse reappointment at the end of the year 1828, and on March 2, 1829, Brother Samuel Pettigrew, of Pittsburgh, was named, the Fifth District then having been reduced so as to comprise the counties of Allegheny, Westmoreland, Butler, Beaver, Armstrong, Jefferson and Indiana. He also was a member of old Ohio Lodge, No. 113, and had been chosen its treasurer back in the year 1815. He served as District Deputy through 1829-30, and was succeeded by Brother Shepley R. Holmes to serve for the year 1831. This Brother was an eminent Pittsburgh physician, and the father of that popular brother, Americus V. Holmes, 33°, Past Master of Dallas Lodge, No. 508. Dr. Holmes belonged to Ohio Lodge, No. 113. He served as District Deputy through the year 1832 and was succeeded by Brother Charles Shaler, who had been again prevailed upon to give his services to the Masonic cause. He relinquished the office at the end of the year 1834. The Grand Lodge records show no appointment of District Deputy for the Fifth District through the years 1835-36 and until September, 1837. It was during these years that the antimasonic persecution was at the height of its virulence and was causing the disappearance of numerous lodges. But on September 7, 1837, the Grand Master announced the appointment of Brother John Birmingham as District Deputy for the Fifth District and he continued in office until the end of 1844. By this time the antimasonic fury had brought disastrous results in the Fifth district. Nearly all the lodges in the territory originally embraced in it had gone down in the storm, so that for several years prior to 1844 the Fifth district had dwindled down to only Allegheny county, and in that county there was now only one lodge, No. 45.

That was the situation when the disturbing news reached the brethren at Pittsburgh that the R. W. Grand Master had decided not only to abolish the old Fifth Masonic District, but also to attach Allegheny county to the district comprising Greene and Fayette counties, with a deputy not a resident of Allegheny county. Early in the year 1845 Brother Birmingham resigned the office of District Deputy, and the Pittsburgh brethren, notwithstanding the threatened annihilation of their District, set about securing the appointment of another Allegheny county Mason. They proposed the name of Brother Samuel McKinley, later one of the first Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society. He was then finishing his term as Worshipful Master of Lodge 45, and in the minutes of a meeting of that body November 26, 1845, is this entry:

A resolution was offered by Brother H. M. Smith, recommending Bro. Past Master S. McKinley as a suitable person for D. D. G. Master in the room of Bro. John Birmingham, resigned. The W. Master appointed Bros. H. M. Smith, J. D. White and John Bigler a Committee to carry into effect the foregoing resolution.

Some months prior to this endorsement of Brother McKinley letters had been forwarded by Pittsburgh brethren to the R. W. Grand Master not only requesting the appointment of a District Deputy from their county to succeed Brother John Birmingham, but also respectfully remonstrating against the dismemberment of the Fifth Masonic District and the incorporation of Allegheny county into the district made up of Fayette and Greene counties. These communications apparently caused no change in the plans of the Grand Master. Then early in the spring of 1846 a largely attended meeting of Pittsburgh Masons was held, whereat the matter was earnestly discussed and a unanimous sentiment of opposition to the change was registered. A committee of five brethren was named to draft a letter to the Grand Master, which letter, as the meager records of that transaction show, "met with the approbation of all the brethren present." This communication was drafted and forwarded to the R. W. Grand Master, and he seems to have sent a reply, refusing to change his plans with reference to the Fifth District. But unfortunately for the precise historical connection of this narrative,

neither the communication of the Pittsburgh Masons nor the answer of the Grand Master has been found.

In the meantime, the blow fell. The Fifth District was no longer recognized. At the annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge the R. W. Grand Master on December 27, 1845, announced the reappointment of Brother Christian P. Gummert as District Deputy for the counties of Fayette and Greene. No deputy was named from Allegheny county, and a few days later word was received in Pittsburgh that the Fifth District had been definitely dissolved and that the great county of Allegheny and the important city of Pittsburgh had been connected with the inland District represented by Brother Gummert. There was of course no objection to this brother, either as a citizen or as a member of the Craft. He had been a popular and successful deputy in his district since his first appointment, January 1, 1840, and he was Past Master of Lodge No. 60 at Brownsville.

Tremendously perturbed and troubled by the annihilation of their ancient Fifth District, and their relegation, as they claimed, to an unimportant position within the Pennsylvania Jurisdiction, and apprehensive that this setback would hinder the growth of the lodges in their county, the Pittsburgh Masons determined to take the momentous step of appealing not only to the Grand Lodge itself, but also to the brethren throughout the Pennsylvania jurisdiction. It seems evident that on or about May 25, 1846, they held another meeting in Pittsburgh, but whether it was a Convocation as the result of a formal call is not known. At this gathering a lengthy communication was read and adopted. This document is remarkable for the dignity of its phraseology, the strength of its arguments, and the emphasis of its expression. It was signed by five well known Masons, who were evidently the brethren who had signed former communications to the Grand Lodge on this subject. These signers were Brothers George W. Layng, a charter member of St. John's Lodge, No. 219, which lodge was then just about one month old; John Bigler, of Lodge 45; Richard Cowan and Alexander Tindle, both charter members of St. John's Lodge, and William W. Wilson, also of Lodge 45. Of these brethren three were later

to be among the earliest members of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society. These were Brothers Layng, who originally belonged to Lodge No. 61, at Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, where he had formerly resided; Brother Tindle, who was made a Mason in old Milnor Lodge, No. 165, and Brother Wilson, who had become a member of Lodge 45 in 1844, having belonged to one of the other old lodges, which had gone out of existence, but to which particular one is not known. The notable and historically important communication which they signed and which was received by the Grand Lodge, was in full as follows:

To the R. Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and Masonic Jurisdiction thereunto belonging.

Friends and Brethren,

It is no doubt known to most of you that several applications have been made by the fraternity in this district to the Right Worshipful the Grand Master, asking for the appointment of a deputy Grand Master for this district and that these applications have been followed by his refusal to grant us what we thought a reasonable and proper request and his annexing this district to that composed of of the counties of Fayette & Greene. It was then thought expedient to call a meeting of the brethren that such notice should be had upon the subject as might lead to a satisfactory result. That meeting was well attended, much interest in the matter submitted to it was manifested and great unanimity prevailed. After Mature deliberation a committee of five of the brethren was appointed and instructed again to address the Grand Master asking him respectfully but at the same time firmly to grant our request. The committee thus Appointed drew up the letter to the Grand Master and presented it to the brethren at a meeting called for that purpose, when it met with the approbation of all the brethren present. In that letter the Committee endeavored to lay before the Grand Master such reasons as in their Judgement were best calculated to convince him of the Justice and propriety of our request, and was transmitted by a brother well acquainted with our feelings and who would be able to answer any reasonable enquirey. The answer of the Grand Master called from us this address to you.

It may perhaps seem somewhat Irregular to address the Grand Lodge upon a subject that properly belongs to the Grand Master alone and is under his direction and controul, but we do so because in a conversation had with a brother of Lodge No. 45, some days since, the Grand Master said, that Altho he was of opinion that there should be no more than four Districts in the State, he would forgo his own opinion if the Grand Lodge thought otherwise, and also because we knew that no one (certainly no Mason) should set up his

own judgement in opposition to that of a number of his brethren understandingly and honestly expressed.

For nearly Forty Years the County of Allegheny has had within her borders a resident D. D. G. M. The expiration of the term for which the last appointment was made having left the office vacant, this Ancient district is dismembered and without, nay, against the consent and under the remonstrance of its members is annexed to the district composed of the Counties of Fayette and Greene. That this district in which is placed the Second City in the Commonwealth with its teeming thousands, its commanding position, its influence, its connections with the Vallies of the Ohio and Mississippi and the Great West, should be thought too insignificant to deserve even a deputy G. M. is scarcely credible, and not that alone, it is annexed to another district, younger by many years, inferior in population and influence in the cause of Masonry. We are told by the Grand Master that he "does not consider the appointment we ask for either proper or at all necessary, every purpose in regard to such an officer being easily effected through the D. D. G. M. at Brownsville." Now, let us not be understood as entertaining any the least disrespect for that district or the brother who holds the appointment of D. D. G. M. there; any and every such feeling we utterly disclaim, but we think we would be wanting in self respect did we not under the circumstances of the case refuse an assent to such a Measure.

For may Years this district has laboured under difficulties of various kinds; no district in the State has suffered more from anti-masonic wickedness than this, and now when it is beginning to revive, where a true Masonic Spirit is found to prevail, when we are struggilng to regain our strength and recover our lost influence, to be cast off by the very Arm on which we hoped to lean, by the very hand from which we expected encouragement and aid, causes us no little doubt and apprehension. We are told by the Grand Master that "the importance of D. D. G. M. is not apparent to him," and he thinks the appointment a matter of small moment. If it be of small moment, why not grant it? If its importance is not apparent to him, it is to us, and it is on that account we require it. Indeed we have thought that if there were to be but two D. D. G. Masters in the State, the district of which the City of Pittsburgh is the head is entitled to one of them.

The determination of the Craft here is, we believe, without exception, not to recognize our annexation to any other district, but to maintain our own dignity by submitting to the inconvenience resulting from the want of a D. Grand Master, rather than accede to the terms that are offered us. Some would go much further, but the majority of us are anxious, exceedingly anxious, for such a settlement of this question as may restore full confidence and esteem; that from the East to the West of our beloved Country brotherly love may abound and true Masonic harmony may prevail.

We now ask you, friends and brethren, to interpose between us and the decision of the Grand Master, and by your kindly interference you may effect such an arrangement of this matter, as may comport with the dignity of that office, and the duty we owe ourselves. We ask for no new thing, no special advantage, nothing but what we have always had and what, in all justice, we should be permitted to retain; we think we ask for nothing of doubtful utility or that may tend in any way to the injury of Masonry; but we believe it is useful, profitable and necessary that such an officer should reside in the City of Pittsburg, and that thereby the good of Masonry will be promoted, the influence of its members increased and a general & wholesome spirit more extensively diffused.

Very respect'y, &c.

Signed.

Geo. W. Layng, A. Tindle,
John Bigler, W. W. Wilson,
Rich'd Cowan, Committee.

May 25/46.

It may well be supposed that the Pittsburgh brethren did not forward that strong and earnest protest to the Grand Lodge and the brethren throughout the Jurisdiction without a feeling of sincere regret over the circumstances which they firmly felt justified their action.

The Grand Lodge received the communication, but with evidences of the utmost dissatisfaction. Probably had it been worded with less emphasis of protest, it might have been passed over in silence, or at least quietly discussed and laid aside. It is evident, however, that the former letters of protest sent to the R. W. Grand Master by the Pittsburgh brethren had been seriously considered by him and the Grand Lodge officers. Already, before the receipt of the communication quoted above, R. W. Grand Master Page had prepared a reply, in the form of an address, to the protests of the Masons in Allegheny county. He had intended to deliver this address in the Quarterly Communication of March 2, 1846, but had not done so. But later he made the address at the very meeting of the Grand Lodge at which the above quoted communication was considered. According to the tenor of the minutes of this communication, held June 1, 1846, whatever the Pittsburgh brethren had gained by the arguments in their letter, they certainly were not the recipients from Grand Lodge of any commendation of its language. In the mind of the R. W. Grand Master the

matter of the ending of the Fifth district and the annexation of Allegheny county to another district were now things quite settled. This is apparent by the declarations in his address, which will be referred to later on. Doubtless in the former letters from the Pittsburgh Masons much the same line of argument had been followed as in the communication signed by the five brethren, with Brother Layng at their head. It was then not so much the substance as the phraseology of this last document of May 25 that brought about condemnatory action by the Grand Lodge at the Grand Communication of June 1, 1846. The following from the minutes of that session furnish this interesting information:

On motion of Bro. Jos. S. Riley the Communication from Pittsburg in relation to the Appointment of D. D. G. M. was called up for consideration, when Bro. Jos. S. Riley offered the following Resolution, viz:

"Resolved, That the Communication from Pittsburg be referred to the Grand Officers with power to act."

Bro. Richard Vaux moved an amendment, but withdrew it when the following amendment was made by Bro. George Griscom and adopted, viz:

"Resolved, That this Grand Lodge entirely approve of the course of the Grand Master in his action in regard to the Communication from our brethren of Pittsburg.

"Resolved, That this Grand Lodge feel profound regret at the disrespectful, uncourteous and unmasonic language of Said Communication, and that therefore it be laid on the Table.

"Resolved, That the Grand Secretary be instructed to transmit to our brethren of Lodge 45 copies of these Resolutions."

On motion of Bro. Jos. S. Riley the further consideration of the subject was postponed until our next Quarterly Communication.

In that Quarterly Communication, held September 7, 1846,Brother Richard Vaux, already prominent as a citizen of Philadelphia, and later to become a great and beloved exemplar of Masonry, put the finishing touches to the expressions of disapprobation with which the Grand Lodge had received the Pittsburgh document. Even then, and more so in after years, Brother Vaux, to whom the ancient landmarks of Freemasonry were as eternally invulnerable as are the gray old cliffs of the ocean, found it impossible to regard with indifference any act or declaration on the part of Masons which in his belief was not in strict accord

with the fundamental principles and practices of the Craft. So, in his large interpretation of the power and dignity of the Grand Lodge, the Pittsburgh letter, as it was worded, was little less than sacrilege, a veritable profanation of sacred things. He therefore led the discussion over the letter, and when he had finished the business, the Pittsburgh brethren had been told that their communication was "calculated to pervert some of the fundamental principles of the Masonic Order." The story of the final disposition of this disturbing document is told in these minutes of the Grand Lodge proceedings of September 7:

The resolutions which were offered in relation to the Communication from the brethren at Pittsburg by Bro. Griscom at last quarterly communication were called up & on motion, duly made and seconded, the second & third resolutions were withdrawn.

Bro. Richard Vaux offered the following Substitute for Bro. Griscom's first resolution, viz: "Resolved, That the Grand Lodge view with Surprise and deep regret the language of the Brethren of Pittsburg used in their communication to this Grand Lodge May 25th, 1848, as calculated to pervert some of the fundamental principles of the Masonic Order."

Bro. J. A. Phillips moved to amend the above resolution by substituting Bro. Griscom's original resolution, which amendment was lost. When on motion duly made and seconded, Bro. Vaux's Resolution was adopted.

Grand Lodge closed in peace at 20 Minutes past Ten o'clock, P. M.

And so with the original condemnation of the Grand Lodge boiled down to Brother Vaux's stern criticism and with the ancient formula, "closed in peace," the protesting document of the Pittsburg brethren was forever laid aside.

But the real big question remained unsettled. True, for the time-being, it had been settled by R. W. Grand Master Page, and he gave his reasons for so doing in the address which he delivered in the Grand Lodge session, September 7, the same meeting at which the Pittsburgh letter was considered and condemned. Following are portions of the address which have reference to the question of D. D. Grand Masters and their appointment:

The utility of so many districts is to me extremely doubtful. Practically no good has resulted to the Order or the Grand Lodge from their existence. According to my view of the subject, our Jurisdiction should not, at most, have more than four districts, with a

deputy located centrally as to each. It might be prudent to assume, as a rule, that a district should never be composed of a less number of Lodges than is required for the opening of the Grand Lodge.

I had, shortly after the commencement of the Masonic year, applications from various counties for these appointments. Washington and Allegheny applied separately, and an appointment was asked for Adams, Cumberland, Franklin and Bedford counties as a District, and Lycoming and Clinton; but for the reason assigned, I declined making them, attaching the Lodges in these counties to existing districts. This course seems not to be acceptable to the brethren in Pittsburg, and they applied to me in language not of the most courteous or Masonic kind, to rescind what I had done, and give them a deputy for that county alone. After a careful review of my decision, and satisfied that the precedent they asked for would lead to innovations of a pernicious tendency, I positively but respectfully declined to do so.

To concede this point to one county, is to concede it as to the whole. In the absence of all evidence of the good which is to spring from this multiplication of officers, merely nominal, I am not disposed to encounter the evil which is likely to spring from the example.

In Pittsburgh, (until very recently) but a single lodge has existed for years past; within the last few months a second lodge has been established. If a District Deputy Grand Master is necessary there, then as Washington county has a lodge, such an appointment being asked for, must be made as to it. Instead, therefore, of making two new deputies I attached these counties to the district composed of Fayette and Greene, under the care of Bro. Gummert, in each of which counties there is a lodge, and the residence of Bro. Gummert is nearly central as to the district.

Right Worshipful Grand Master James Page seems to have been, as far as the records show, the only head of the Grand Lodge in the Pennsylvania Jurisdiction who has not attached great importance to the office of D. D. Grand Master. However, although he stood so rigidly against the request of the Masons at Pittsburgh and so persistently minimized the value of the plan for districts and deputies, he went no further in his opposition to them than to insist that the number of districts should be decreased. Then, as he continued his address, he pointed out that up to his time, there had been no settled rule as to the appointment of D. D. Grand Masters, and declared that "this is certainly a state of things it is most desirable to correct," and he added that he had "taken the first steps to that end." The great question in his mind was the number of lodges necessary to

form a district, and he argued that when once that point is settled, "there can be no further difficulty." And this, he said, "should be done by resolution of the Grand Lodge." This suggestion was at once accepted by the Grand Lodge at that same session, by the unanimous adoption of the following important resolution:

"Resolved, That the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania recognize the propriety and establish as a principle, for her future government, the necessity of having at least Five Subordinate Lodges to constitute a District and be entitled to the privilege of a Deputy Grand Master.

This fundamental principle having been so established by the supreme power in the Jurisdiction, it had to be adhered to, and in consequence at the Communication held the 28th of the following December, 1846, the reappointment of D. D. Grand Master Gummert was announced, for the counties of Fayette, Greene, Allegheny and Washington. They no longer had a deputy from Pittsburgh and the ancient Fifth District was abolished.

But as all things are said to come to those who wait, and especially when they get into effective action, within a year triumph came to the brethren in Pittsburgh. They had started to organize new lodges and they kept on organizing them. St. John's Lodge, No. 219, came into existence April 8, 1846. Franklin Lodge, No. 221, was constituted September 7, 1846, and Allegheny Lodge, No. 223, chose as its birthday May 13, 1847, while on May 13, 1847, a dispensation was granted by the General Grand Encampment, as it was then designated, to form Pittsburgh Commandery, No. 1, followed by a charter, September 16, 1847. Also an application was put in for the Warrant for another Lodge, Solomon Lodge, No. 231, which was organized March 6, 1848. So by the end of the year 1847 four lodges were actually in existence in Pittsburgh and another was soon to be formed. That was sufficient, and as a result we read in the proceedings of the Grand Communication held December 27, 1847, this brief announcement, under the head of "District Deputy Grand Masters:"

Bro. Samuel McKinley, of Pittsburgh, for Allegheny, Beaver & Westmoreland.

Thus the old Fifth district was revived and Pittsburgh had its D. D. Grand Master. The work of Brothers Layng,

Tindle and Wilson, later Masonic Fund Society Trustees, and the other brethren had brought about most important and lasting results. Their work evolved a precedent that became a conclusion and a conclusion that became a Masonic principle. The contest, emphatic as it was, left no scars and created no antagonisms. The gain was large and permanent. Henceforth there were guiding lines, almost as firmly established as land-marks, for the creation of Masonic Districts, the appointment of deputies and the duties pertaining to the office. This precedent was emphatically recognized ten years later by R. W. Grand Master John K. Mitchell, when he said in his address before the Grand Body, December 28, 1857:

> As the District Deputy Grand Masters are to be sought for among the brethren who live beyond the limits to which the Grand Master has ready access, great difficulty is felt in making a judicious selection of such dignitaries. * * * By a decision of the Grand Lodge in June, 1846, it was decreed that not less than five lodges shall constitute a district, and by the Ahiman Rezon it is ordained, that from time to time the Masonic Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge shall be divided into districts.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DECEASED MEMBERS OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MASONIC FUND SOCIETY FOR THE COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY

JAMES W. HAILMAN, 32°

In the resolutions adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society at a meeting held August 7, 1860, expressive of sorrow over the death of Brother James W. Hailman are these words: "To him we are greatly indebted for the noble edifice in which we have this night assembled." Brother Hailman was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason in Lodge 45 on January 9, 1846. On December 25, 1847, he was one of the original committee of seven (afterwards made Trustees) appointed at the convocation of Pittsburgh Masons convened to consider "the propriety of purchasing a lot of ground and the erection of a Masonic Hall." With him on that committee were Brothers Samuel McKinley, Alexander McCammon, George W. Layng, William W. Wilson, James S. Hoon and John Sargent. This progressive step of the brethren of those days was an undertaking that suited Brother Hailman. Not only was it in accord with the profound admiration which he entertained for the Order, but also the practical proposition of purchasing land in Pittsburgh and the erection thereon of a Masonic building was in full accord with the bent of his enterprising mind. Hence it was that his business and financial experience naturally placed him at the head of the Board of Trustees and made him so conspicuously effective in realizing the plan to build a Hall for the Craft. He knew how to push affairs to successsful termination, and in after years this became recognized as one of his great characteristics. The Pittsburgh "Gazette," in its announcement of his demise on July 3, 1860, said:

> Yesterday morning terminated the mortal existence of Mr. J. W. Hailman, who was probably one of the most extraordinary business men to be found in the commercial circles of Pittsburgh.

Brother Hailman began his business career while still a youth in Greene county, Pa., where he was born. He had some early education in the public schools and some acquaintance with classical literature obtained by a brief attendance at Washington college, in Washington, Pa. His first business venture in Pittsburgh, when he was only 21

years of age, was as the head of the firm of Hailman, Burbridge & Co., wholesale grocers. Some years later his health, never robust, failed and he went to Baltimore, Md., to reside, thinking the climate there would be beneficial. But he was not content to remain there, and returned to Pittsburgh, where he again engaged in the wholesale grocery business. Later he became connected with the firm of Singer, Hartman & Co. In 1846, about the time he began his Masonic activities, he withdrew from the grocery trade and with others established the Duquesne Iron Works, an important enterprise with which he remained connected during the remainder of his life. When he died in 1860, he was vice president of the Pittsburgh Dollar Savings bank, President of the Pittsburgh Life, Fire & Marine Insurance Co., and a trustee of the Masonic Fund Society. He had for more than twenty years been afflicted with stomach and throat troubles, which finally culminated in his death at his beautiful residence on Shady avenue in the East District of Pittsburgh, and which is now transformed into a family hotel. He left what in the year 1860 could be called a considerable fortune. Among the various bequests in his will was one, from the proceeds of which the poor of the city of Pittsburgh still receive benefits. This bequest was one of $10,000, to be used as directed in the following clause of his will:

> I give and bequeath to the Mayor, Alderman and Citizens of Pittsburgh the sum of $10,000, to be invested from time to time, under the direction of Councils of said city, in bonds of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, or government stocks or bonds of the United States, and the interest thereof annually paid into the treasury of said city for the special purpose of being applied and appropriated to the purchase of bread and potatoes for distribution among the worthy poor of said city, during the winter season, annually forever, under the supervision and direction of the Mayor and Presidents of the Select and Common Councils of said City.

This bequest has ever since its inception been known officially as "The Hailman Fund," and is invested in United States bonds, the interest from which is put to charitable uses by the city government.

Brother Hailman began his Masonic life by becoming a Master Mason in Lodge 45, January 9, 1846. At that

date Brother Samuel McKinley was W. M. of Lodge 45, and he conferred the First and Second degrees upon the candidate, the Third being conferred by Brother Alexander McCammon, who had succeeded McKinley in the East. At this time Judge Charles Shaler had long been a member of that lodge, and so it came about that Brother Hailman was made a Mason in the midst of brethren who were soon after to be associated with him in the formation of the Masonic Fund Society and in the work of bringing about the construction of the Masonic Hall of 1851. The petition for membership from Brother Hailman into Lodge 45 was presented October 10, 1845, and it gives this information:

A petition praying for initiation signed by James W. Hailman, age 36 years, profession, Merchant; residence, near East Liberty; recommended by Bros. S. McKinley and J. J. Ashbridge, received.

But Brother Hailman did not long remain in Lodge 45. In March, 1846, a charter was granted for the institution of St. John's Lodge, No. 219, and he was one of the seventeen warrant members. With him in this group were Judge Charles Shaler and William W. Wilson, later members of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society, of which organization he became a member on June 22, 1847. In 1854 Brother Hailman was instrumental in assisting to organize one of the two early Grand Encampments, K. T., in Pennsylvania, interesting information on this point being given in an article printed in the July, 1854, number of Moore's Freemason's Magazine, published in Boston, Mass., as follows:

We have a copy of the proceedings of a Convention held at Brownsville, on the 12th April last, for the purpose of forming a Grand Encampment for the State of Pennsylvania. Three Encampments were fully represented, viz: Pittsburg Encampment, No. 1; Demolay Encampment, Washington, No. 2; and St. Omar Encampment, Uniontown, No. 3. The convention was held under a special warrant for Sir William B. Hubbard, G. G. M. Sir Alfred Creigh, of Washington, Pa., presided. It having been resolved to proceed to the organization of a Grand Encampment, a committee was appointed to report the draft of a Constitution for its government. The committee having reported, and their report adopted, the following Grand Officers were elected: Sir W. W. Wilson, Grand Master; J. B. Musser, Deputy Grand Master; John Bierer, Generalissimo; Andrew Patrick, Captain General; Rev. Noble Gillespie, Prelate; J. W. Hailman, Senior Warden; J. R. Griffith, Junior Warden; George

Passmore, Recorder; William Thornbell, Treasurer; William Wolf, Standard Bearer; Thomas Davage, Sword Bearer; D. Zimmerman, Warden.

It is interesting to note that four of the Masons mentioned in the above article became later members of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society; namely, Brothers Wilson, Hailman, Davage and Wolf. Brother Hailman continued to fill a Grand Encampment office until February, 1857, in which year delegates from the two Grand Encampments met in convention in Philadelphia and brought about the consolidation of the two Grand Bodies into one Grand Encampment for the State of Pennsylvania. At this Philadelphia convention, Brother William W. Wilson, later a Masonic Fund Society trustee, presided.

In the establishment of the Scottish Rite in the Valley of Pittsburgh Brother Hailman took an early and an important part. The Rite was established in 1852 and the meeting place was in the Masonic Hall on Fifth avenue until April 1, 1873, when, owing to the lack of space in the Hall, they removed to Library Hall on Penn street near Federal, where they continued to meet until October, 1889, when they removed to the new Freemasons Hall on Fifth avenue. In his notable address delivered in Gourgas Grand Lodge of Perfection, December 27, 1883, Brother Samuel Harper, 33°, said:

> The first fourteen years of the existence of the Rite in this Valley were uneventful. Brother James W. Hailman, 32°, was the first presiding officer, having been elected Thrice Potent Grand Master June 16, 1852, and holding office, I am informed, until 1857.

Press of business affairs and ill health prevented Brother Hailman from devoting sufficient time to the Scottish Rite work, and his official duties were performed to a large extent by his deputy, Brother James S. Hoon. In his report to the Supreme Council of Sov. Grand Inspector Gen., 33°, in 1853, Ill. Bro. K. H. Rensselaer, D. D. for Pennsylvania and Ohio, said, referring to Brother Hailman:

> With sorrow we report the continued ill-health of the T. P. G. Master of Gourgas Lodge of Perfection of Pittsburgh, now in foreign lands. In consequence of his ill-health and long absence, the duties of his office have fallen to Bro. Hoon, Sov. Master of the G. Council of Princes of Jerusalem.

At this time Brother Hailman was making an extended

journey through Europe. In December, 1855, he was appointed, much against his wishes, because of bad health, D. D. Grand Master to succeed Brother James S. Hoon. He gave as much as possible of his time and strength to the position,and continued in the office through the years 1856 and 1857. In May of the latter year, Brother Peter Williamson, the R. W. Grand Master, in company with Grand Lodge officers, made a Visitation to Pittsburgh, and in his address to the Grand Lodge later he gave an interesting account of the condition of the Order at that time, under the deputyship of Brother Hailman:

> At Pittsburg a number of brethren awaited us and received us with much courtesy. In the evening a large number of the members of the several lodges located there, and in Allegheny City, were convened in the spacious and convenient lodge room in their new Hall. The worshipful master of the oldest lodge presided. A formal Grand Visitation was made, and an address delivered, after which we were welcomed by Brother Judge Shaler on behalf of the assembled brethren. Encouragement was then given to all present to propose any question in reference to the work or other peculiarities of the Order, which being fully responded to, the convention closed. On the following evening the brethren were again assembled for instruction, when upon the recommendation of our kind Brother Dr. King, to whom we are indebted for the admirable oration pronounced at the dedication of this Hall, (the Philadelphia Hall, in which the G. M. was then speaking), a candidate was entered, passed and raised by virtue of my presence; previous to which, however, and address was delivered and report made by the Grand Secretary upon examination of the minutes of the several lodges in attendance. After exhibiting and explaining the work connected with the opening and closing ceremonies, and pointing out some errors, we closed, highly gratified with our reception. The D. D. Grand Master, Brother James Hailman, was absent in Europe at the time of our visit, in pursuit of health; but has since returned, I am happy to say, much improved, and has reported the result of his labors and the state of the other lodges in his district, which will be read by the Grand Secretary for your information.

Brother Hailman became a member of Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162, in February, 1847, but never held office in that Body. But from the standpoint of his services as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society, even more than from that of his work in the Scottish Rite and other Bodies, the services of Brother Hailman to the Craft are of inestimable value. During the precarious

period of the Masonic Fund Society through the years 1855 to 1859 inclusive, when that organization was sorely in need of funds, and when differences among the stockholders were not always amicable, it was mainly through the influence and the resources of Brother Hailman that peace and prosperity came back permanently. How sincerely and openly that great fact was recognized and acknowledged by his fellow trustees is seen by the resolution adopted at a meeting held August 7, 1860:

Our late Brother, James W. Hailman, for many years President of the Board of Trustees of this Society, having ceased his labors with the Craft on earth, and gone to that reward promised to the good and faithful Craftsman, in the Temple above, be it—

Resolved that to him we are greatly indebted for the noble edifice in which we have this night assembled. His love for the brethren prompted its erection, his Masonic spirit pointed the way, his business talent suggested the means, and his financial skill and administrative ability, enabled us "to owe no man anything."

Resolved, that we deplore his loss as a bright particular star gone down in the firmament, who in entering the South, Passing the West, and approaching the East, gave evidence of a brother worthy of all the jewels conferred upon him by his fellows of the Craft.

Resolved, that his Masonic virtues characterized him in all his dealings beyond the tyled door of the Lodge Room, adding dignity to his character as a man, and lustre to his graces as a Christian.

Resolved, that these resolutions be entered upon the minutes of the Society, and that a copy of the same be presented to the family of the deceased.

The following appreciative words are taken from a historical sketch of Franklin Lodge, No. 221, by Brother P. M. George A. Howe:

On July 3, 1860, the lodge and the fraternity suffered a great loss in the death of Brother P. M. James W. Hailman, one of our charter members and our second worshipful master. From the foundation of the lodge until his death he had taken a most active interest in its welfare and that of the Craft, and was looked upon as a man and as a Freemason of the highest type, one who was indeed a master in all that the name implies. Upon the evening of his death the lodge held a special meeting to make arrangements for his funeral, at which appropriate resolutions were adopted, extolling his worth and lamenting his loss. On the 5th of July he was buried with Masonic ceremonies, and our minutes record that 189 of his brethren marched in his funeral procession, from his residence in East Liberty to the Allegheny cemetery.

SAMUEL McKINLEY

There is in the minutes of the Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny of the date of October 4, 1854, an eloquent memorial record of the death of Brother Samuel McKinley, in which occur these impressive words:

> By many years of unwearied devotion to Masonic labors and Masonic charities—a devotion which glowed but more fervently when storms of persecution swept the fiercest, or when the Masonic love of many grew cold—he had endeared himself strongly to the affection and the admiration of the brethren of this and other States.

Those sentences epitomize the Masonic life of this revered brother. He had stood a real pillar of Masonry when bitter bigotry and persecution were heaving their forces against the Fraternity in days when the Craft in Pittsburgh was far less strong than it is now. He lived all his life in the old city of Allegheny, now incorporated in the municipality of Pittsburgh, and was widely known and respected and loved. He was for many years a contract painter and a dealer in paints, and had an extensive business. Back in the year 1846 his trade announcement in the local newspapers read as follows:

> S. McKinley—House, Sign and Ornamental Painter & Dealer in Paints. No. 44 St. Clair St., Pittsburg.

At the time of his death in 1854 he was a member of councils from the Fourth ward, in Allegheny, and some years prior to that period had served as a school director. In both these positions he was a capable and honest incumbent. It is interesting to note here in connection with his work as a school director that his daughter, Miss Amanda McKinley, was a teacher in the public schools for 44 years, and at this date (1922) this cultured lady is still a resident of Allegheny, now known as the North Side.

Brother McKinley met his death in a railroad accident on August 23, 1854. Having from early youth been an earnest member of the Methodist Church, he had gone to worship at a campmeeting near Altoona, Pa., and was returning home in the cabin of a locomotive. While on the journey the engine was thrown from the track, and he was crushed beneath it. The following brief account of the

fatal accident is given in a Pittsburgh newspaper of the date of August 24, 1854:

A telegraph dispatch was received last night announcing the death of Mr. Samuel McKinley in a railroad accident which occurred near Altoona, on the Pennsylvania railroad. It appears that Mr. McKinley was passing from Hillside Station, where he had been at a campmeeting, to the point above mentioned, upon the locomotive of a freight train. When within a short distance of his destination (Altoona), the engine met with some obstruction, which threw it off the track, and it turned over. Mr. McKinley was thrown underneath the engine, and killed almost instantly.

Mr. McKinley was an old and well known citizen, having resided here for many years, and his mournful and sudden death will be regretted by all.

To the Masonic Fraternity his death was a terrible shock and a great loss. There are no available records which give information as to the Masonic career of Brother McKinley prior to his connection with Lodge 45 on September 29, 1841. Originally he was a member of Ohio lodge, No. 113, which was warranted in 1809 and went out of existence in the year 1835. But it is evident that just as soon as he had gone into Lodge 45 he became active in the promotion of Masonic affairs. Within two years from his entry into that lodge he became its worshipful master, and upon the formation of the Masonic Fund Society he was made one of the first seven trustees, and at the preliminary meeting held December 25, 1847, was made secretary of the Board of Trustees and held that office until 1853. He was a charter member of Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162, and was knighted in Pittsburg Commandery, No. 1. In the year 1847 fortune was not smiling with particular effulgence upon the Craft in Pittsburgh, and Lodge 45 was suffering a financial pinch. Brother McKinley was one of a committee of five named to "address a letter to the Grand Lodge, stating to them the cause of our inability to meet our payments to them, and requesting a remittance of the same." This request the Grand Lodge eventually granted. But there were numerous other lodges throughout Pennsylvania making similar appeals at the same time, for the Order had not yet recovered from the effects of the antimasonry persecution. Brother McKinley was W. M. of Lodge 45 during 1844-45, and he was selected, January 22, 1845, with

Brothers John Birmingham, George Armor and Alexander McCammon to take charge, on behalf of Lodge 45, of its side of of the litigation over the title to the property at Third and Smithfield streets in Pittsburgh, on which stood the small building wherein the Masonic Bodies had met for many years, and which was destroyed by the great fire in 1845. This litigation has been described elsewhere in this volume. After that disastrous conflagration Lodge 45 had for some weeks no place in which to meet. But we read in the minutes of the very next session of the lodge after the fire that it was "held at the home of Bro. Saml. McKinley in Allegheny City." This house, the dwelling place of Brother McKinley when he died, is still standing and is known as No. 224 Isabella street, North Side. The property is now owned by his daughter, Miss Amanda McKinley.

To aid the distressed, whether members of the Masonic fraternity or not, was ever a cardinal virtue with Brother McKinley, and so we find that he was named, as shown by the minutes of September 26, 1845, as one of "five members of Lodge 45, who shall be styled the Trustees of Charity, to serve until the November election." In the minutes of Lodge 45 of a meeting held December 12, 1845, when he had been succeeded by Brother Alexander McCammon as W. M., this pleasing episode is noted:

> Bro. John Bigler on the part of the members of Lodge 45 presented to Past Master Bro. Samuel McKinley an Apron and Sash as a testimonial of his worth as a true and firm Masonic Character. Whereupon Bro. McKinley made a few appropriate and neat remarks, acknowledging the Honor conferred upon him and tendered his sincere thanks to the members.

Another record of Lodge 45, of date of March 30, 1853, states that—

> Communication from the Board of Managers of the Washington National Monument Society was read, asking this lodge to send to the Board the names of three members to collect funds for said Monument. The W. Master appointed James S. Hoon, C. A. Colton and S. McKinley said Committee.

Having been appointed at the beginning of the year 1850 D. D. Grand Master of the Fifth district, he at once entered with vim and high purpose upon the duties of his office. Always busy and efficient in the affairs of his lodge, he was no less successful in the larger field of operations

as a District Deputy. When therefore he retired from that office, the brethren set about the pleasant task of showing practically their appreciation of his valuable labors. Brother Alexander M. Pollock, then and for many years later a prominent Pittsburgh physician, was master of Lodge 45 when the following action was taken at a meeting held October 26, 1853:

> On motion of Bro. John P. Glass, Resolved that a committee of three from this lodge be authorized to confer with a committee from other lodges in this Jurisdiction, in adopting suitable arrangements to procure and present to D. D. Grand Master McKinley a suitable testimonial as evidence of the high regard entertained for him as a Mason and for his successful discharge of the duties of the office of D. D. Grand Master during the period he has held said office. Said Committee were also to confer with Committees from other lodges in selecting a candidate for D. D. Grand Master. The W. M. appointed Bros. P. M. James S. Hoon, John P. Glass and William Noble, Committee on the above resolution.

The above action of Lodge 45 was one of the first practical steps taken in a popular movement begun in 1853 for the presentation to Brother McKinley of a gift which should be expressive of the high regard in which he was held by his fellow Masons. This movement was headed by such intimate friends of McKinley as Brothers Charles Shaler, Wilson McCandless, James S. Hoon, James W. Hailman, John P. Glass, and with them were brethren from other counties included in the Fifth Masonic District. At a general meeting of Masons in Pittsburgh held late in October, 1853, arrangements were made, and it was decided to present the retiring District Deputy with an elaborate and costly tea set, the presentation to be made some time in the following summer. But this fraternal and appreciative exhibition of affection, begun so pleasantly, was to have a sorrowful ending. At a meeting of Lodge 45, November 30, 1853, it was announced that Brother John P. Glass had been appointed at the general meeting of the brethren to take charge of the matter, and he at once set about it in his characteristically hearty manner, backed enthusiastically by Brother Wilson McCandless and other leading Masons. They started a subscription and got a goodly sum. Then it seems to have occurred to Brother Glass and his fellow con-

spirators in the good work, that it would not be at all amiss to request the Grand Lodge to send in a donation, seeing that Brother McKinley had so long and faithfully served as a district deputy. Whereupon Brother Glass sent a telegram to Brother George L. Childs in Philadelphia, who was a representative to the Grand Body from Lodge No. 19, of that city. This telegram was as follows:

Pittsburgh, Mar. 6th, 1854.

To George K. Childs, Esq.

In a few days I will send you an order for the Silver Tea Service to be presented to Brother Samuel McKinley.

We have upwards of five hundred dollars subscribed, and we expect from the Grand Lodge or its members one hundred dollars more. Seven years devoted service deserves, and should command, this much from the Grand Lodge, which meets tonight. Will you be good enough to present the facts, for action tonight and report to me in the morning.

Yours respectfully,
(Signed) James P. Glass.

Aside from the inclusion of the above telegram, there is to be found in the published records of the Grand Lodge no other mention of this matter, and it is not known as to what extent the Philadelphia brethren responded to the request. Doubtless, however, as Brother McKinley was very popular in Grand Lodge circles and among the Philadelphia brethren generally, they sent in a donation. In the meantime, the coming presentation had got to a matter of public notice, and the newspapers took it up. A local paper announced, September 13, 1854, that "Col. John P. Glass, of the City Hotel, had the gift in charge," and that it consisted of the following pieces: "A water urn, coffee pot, cream jug, spoon bowl, tea pot, slop bowl, and waiter." Col. Glass at that date was, with Daniel D. Carr, proprietor of the City Hotel, which stood at the corner of Third and Smithfield streets. Later he was connected with the Pennsylvania railroad as freight agent at Pittsburgh and some years later was sent to the legislature and was Speaker of the House of Representatives in 1867. He then made his residence in Harrisburg and died there. He had become a member of Lodge 45 January 27, 1847, and in the following year had joined Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162, R. A. M.

Apparently it had been decided to make the presenta-

tion to Brother McKinley late in the fall of 1854. But fate willed that this carefully planned expression of affection should not occur. For when at last the elaborate gift had been purchased and elegantly engraved, and all arrangements concluded for the presentation at a public gathering of the Craft in Pittsburgh, the brethren were plunged into deep sorrow by the untimely death in August of Brother McKinley. It was then determined to present the gift to the widow of the deceased brother, as indicated in the following announcement in the Pittsburgh "Post" of August 11, 1854:

> We learn that the magnificent silver tea service, designed to be presented to the late Samuel McKinley by the Masonic lodges, in gratitude for his distinguished services to the Order, will be received by the Hon. Charles Shaler, on the part of the deceased gentleman's family. Col. McCandless is to make the presentation address on the part of the assembled Craft at Masonic Hall, on some day during the third week of September.

There is no record available showing that this ceremony took place, but we are informed by the daughter of Brother McKinley, Miss Amanda McKinley, that while she has no personal recollection of the event, she had often heard her mother speak of this presentation. At any rate, the beautiful gift was taken to the home of the bereaved widow, and in the home of Miss McKinley on the North Side, Pittsburgh, there still remains one piece of this silver tea service, the other pieces having been distributed among representatives of the family. It was a gift well worthy both of Brother McKinley and the brethren who bought it. The silver is of the highest quality and the engraving and chasing are extremely elegant and artistic.

In the Grand Lodge records there are numerous references to Brother McKinley's activities as district deputy. In the minutes of the Grand Communication of March 6, 1848, we read the following:

> A return was received from Sam'l McKinley, D. D. G. Master, showing the organization of Lodge No. 229 at Bridgewater, Beaver County, Penna., April 14, 5848, and the Installation of Officers in ancient form, and the organization of Lodge No. 231 at Pittsburgh, Pa., and the installation of officers in ancient form April 14, 5848.

On the evening of October 17, 1848, District Deputy McKinley made a visitation to Lodge 45, Brother Hamilton

J. Rogers being then W. M. The minutes of the lodge have the following:

6 o'clock, P. M.

The W. M. stated that the lodge was called together for the purpose of a Grand Visitation from the D. D. G. M of this District. The W. M. appointed Bro. L. M. H. Butler to inform D. D. G. M: McKinley that the lodge was prepared to receive him, when he entered accompanied by the following officers:

Acting	Grand	Senior Warden,	.....	Bro. James Stevens
"	"	Junior "	.....	" Daniel Zimmerman
"	"	Senior Deacon	.....	" Robert Allingham
"	"	Junior "	.....	" David McKee
"	"	Secretary	.....	" Thos. W. Wright
"	"	Treasurer	.....	" G. W. Glasgow
"	"	M. C.	.....	" Alexander M. Pollock
"	"	M. C.	.....	" John Lawton

The lodge officers having vacated their seats, the Grand Officers took their places. The D. D. G. M. addressed the lodge in a very appropriate and interesting address. On motion Resolved that the D. D. G. Master be requested to furnish a copy of his address to the lodge and that it be transcribed on the minutes of the Lodge.

Brother McKinley was reappointed deputy for the year 1849. It was in this year that a second attempt was made to revive old Milnor Lodge, No. 165, which had gone out of existence in 1837. The first attempt had been carried through successfully in 1845. The warrant had been sent to Pittsburgh and the lodge was to be constituted on April 10 of that year. But on that very day, at noon, the terrible conflagration which destroyed a great part of the city, broke out, and the Masonic building and most of the papers and equipment therein were burned. The second attempt was halted in the Grand Lodge, and it was not until the year 1854 that Milnor Lodge was reconstituted under the number 287. It was also under the administration of D. D. McKinley that Washington Lodge, No. 255, was warranted in 1851.

The years 1850 and 1851 were busy ones for Brother McKinley. Not only was he giving his attention to his work as District Deputy, but was also at the same time a trustee and the secretary of the Masonic Fund Society, and was a regular attendant at its meetings. The new Masonic Hall was in process of construction on Fifth avenue, and Brother McKinley was untiring in his efforts to help along that im-

portant undertaking. Late in the year 1851 he was commissioned by his fellow trustees to journey to Cincinnati "to collect unpaid stock" in the Masonic Hall, and later he had the great satisfaction of taking part, as District Deputy, in the ceremonies of laying the corner stone in 1850 and finally of the dedication of the structure in 1851. He was reappointed District Deputy for 1851 and it was during this year that the district was divided into two, as was announced by Grand Master William Whitney in his address at the Grand Communication of March 26 of that year. He said:

> On St. John's Day last when I announced the appointments for the year, it will be remembered that some few of the districts in the State were left vacant for the time being. Since then I have reappointed Bro. Saml. McKinley and Joseph L. Stichter. The district of which Brother McKinley has formerly had charge was a very large one. I have therefore made two new ones out of the part of Bro. S. McKinley's and Bro. C. P. Gummert.

The district of which Pittsburgh was the center was then made to include only the counties of Allegheny and Armstrong. But the next year, 1852, it was again enlarged so as to include Allegheny, Westmoreland, Beaver and Lawrence counties. Under these circumstances Brother McKinley found it impossible to give proper attention to the work demanded from a deputy of so large an extent of territory, and he was compelled to refuse reappointment, and Brother James S. Hoon was named in his place.

As a Royal Arch Mason Brother McKinley's work therein was prominent and important. He was, as has been stated, a charter member of Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162, organized in Pittsburgh in 1846. In the proceedings of the Grand Chapter, May 18, 1846, is this record:

> A petition was received and read, signed by a number of Companions in Pittsburg, dated July 28, 1846, praying for a Warrant for a Chapter to be held in Pittsburg, to be named Zerubbabel Chapter, for Mark Mason, Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch; which was, on motion, referred to the Grand Officers with power to grant a Warrant as prayed for as soon as the Grand Officers shall have been satisfied that the petitioners have complied with the Regulations of the Grand Chapter.

The name of Brother McKinley headed the list of these petitioners, and it is curious to note that on that petition,

wherever these names have been published, his name appears as follows: "Samuel McKinley, a physician, of Lodge 45; Jerusalem Chapter, No. 3." How Brother McKinley came to be designated as a "physician" on that petition has never been explained; and perhaps can be explained only by the surmise that the word "painter"—Brother McKinley's trade—was tortured from his handwriting into the word "physician." He became the first M. E. H. P. of Zerubbabel Chapter, and was succeeded in that office in December, 1847 by Brother James S. Hoon. At the December 27, 1849, meeting of the Grand Chapter the appointment was announced of Companion McKinley as D. D. Grand High Priest for the Counties of Allegheny, Washington, Beaver, Fayette, Green and Blair. In the minutes of the Grand Chapter meeting December 27, 1851, is this entry:

All but High Priests having retired, the M. E. Grand High Priest was pleased to confer the degree of Past High Priest upon Companion Samuel McKinley, of Pittsburgh, a Past High Priest of Chapter No. 162.

In December, 1851, he was succeeded as D. D. Grand High Priest by Brother Hoon. A signal and merited honor was paid to his memory in 1858 when Lodge No. 318 was constituted as McKinley Lodge in Pittsburgh.

The death of Brother McKinley in 1854 was felt as a personal loss by the individual members of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society. He had resigned as secretary of the Society in December, 1852, his last minutes being of the meeting of the Board December 27 of that year. He was succeeded as secretary by Brother Alexander Reinhart, who was laid in his grave a little more than two months prior to the death of Brother McKinley. In their memorial resolutions, adopted at a meeting held October 4, 1854, they paid this tribute to his good work and character:

Brother McKinley, by many years of unwearied devotion to Masonic labors and Masonic charities—a devotion which glowed but more fervently when storms of persecution swept the fiercest—or when the Masonic love of many grew cold—had endeared himself strongly in the affections and admiration of the brethren in this and other States. To his unwearied energies, to the example of his untarnished virtues, we largely owe the present elevated conditions of Masonry in this city and district. To the erection also of our noble Hall and to the controlling influence of a pure morality governing

the Order, he was an efficient contributor. He was for many years our D. D. Grand Master. He had filled all the official stations in Masonry with dignity and general acceptance, and as a member of our Board of Trustees we feel deeply his loss. He died an ardent Christian, an enlightened and honest Mason, a beloved friend. Let us emulate his many virtues.

Not at all conspicuous in wealth or public affairs, yet the funeral of Brother McKinley was a notable one and a signal tribute to his popularity and as a citizen and a Mason. The services at the grave were particularly impressive. From a long and most sympathetic account of the interment as printed in the Pittsburgh "Commercial Journal" of August 26, 1854, we take the following:

The funeral of the late P. D. D. G. Master Samuel McKinley on the afternoon of Friday, the 25th, was by far the most imposing Masonic solemnity of the kind which has taken place here since the great revival of the Order in this District. It was conducted under the special direction of W. M., William Noble, of Lodge 45, of which ancient lodge the deceased brother was a member. Upward of 400 Masons, including the officers not only of the cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny, but of the whole Masonic district embraced with the jurisdiction of the late Brother McKinley, were in attendance. The officers were clothed in the insignia of the Order and the brethren wore the peculiar badge which has been worn from immemorial time at the funerals of brethren of the Order. The procession proceeded under the direction of Brother Volz as Grand Master of Ceremonies and his assistants, Brothers Anderson and Campbell, from the Masonic Hall in Fifth street, to the residence of the deceased brother in Allegheny city; and having there taken charge of the remains, to the place of sepulture, the Mount Union Cemetery, below Allegheny City. A vast crowd of citizens accompanied the cortege on foot, and large trains of carriages, with the mourning family and relations, added to the imposing character of the spectacle. The effect of the scene was increased by the slow movement of the procession, to the music of the solemn dirges played during the progress of the funeral by Young's band. * * * The services were conducted with unusual solemnity by Brothers Johnston and Rutter, and so far as the ceremonial required, by Worshipful Master Noble. At that part of the ceremony at which the master asks: "Is there no one who can comfort us?" Brother Charles Shaler, P. D. D. G. Master, addressed the assemblage.

Here the newspaper gives a lengthy report of the eloquent and beautiful address by Judge Shaler, an address which for grace of language and sweetness of sentiment is equal to any tribute ever paid to any Mason, whether king

or artisan. We will quote here but one paragraph:

The great and distinguishing characteristic of Brother McKinley was LOVE. In him it was a perennial fountain, flowing out of a pure heart, refreshing all who came within its influence. The fountain was always full to overflowing, and from it the energy and enthusiasm that governed his life and conduct seemed to derive their strength. It was impossible to converse with him even for a few moments, without imbibing a portion of his delightfully loving spirit. The kindness of his nature calmed you at once, and his whole life was but the emanation of this overwhelming power of his being.

When the news of the tragic death of this greatly esteemed brother reached the Grand Lodge officers at Philadelphia deep regret and sorrow were expressed. At the quarterly Grand Communication held September 4, 1854, R. W. Grand Master James Hutchinson presiding, resolutions were presented and adopted as follows:

The death of P. D. D. G. M. Bro. McKinley was announced, when P. G. M. Bro. James Page read the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted, to-wit:

Resolved, as this Grand Lodge has received information of the demise of Brother Samuel McKinley, P. D. D. G. M., of the Allegheny District, and it is right and proper for the assembled brethren to manifest their sense of the great loss the Fraternity has sustained by this mournful event; therefore, resolved, that in the death of our esteemed brother we feel and know that a safe and brilliant light in the Order has been suddenly and peacefully extinguished.

Resolved, That by this dispensation of the Supreme Grand Master of the Universe one endeared to us by many pleasing recollections and Masonic ties has been removed from the scenes of his earthly labors and usefulness, to that Grand Lodge not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Resolved, that if ever a heart was imbued with and cherished the pure principles of the Order, and a life was truly devoted to their diffusion, and to the advancement of the prosperity and welfare of the Craft at large, we must seek for that heart and life in the career of our lamented brother, and forever connect them with his memory.

Resolved, that we tender our deepest sympathies to the bereaved family, and the many friends of the deceased, and as some solace for their heavy sorrow, point them to the beautiful example set by him whose loss we mourn.

Resolved, that a copy of this preamble and resolutions be properly prepared, to be signed by the Grand Officers and forwarded to the family of our deceased brother.

A public meeting of the Masonic brethren in Allegheny county was held in Masonic Hall in Pittsburgh, August 26,

1854, to pay tribute to the memory of Brother McKinley. There was a very large attendance and Brother William Noble presided. Addresses, eloguently expressive of the great regard in which the deceased brother was held were made by Brothers Charles Shaler, Col. Samuel W. Black, Judge Wilson McCandless, Dr. William Johnson and others of the brethren, and resolutions were adopted expressing their sorrow over the death of their beloved fellow Mason. At his death Brother McKinley was a member of the councils of Allegheny city, and the members of this organization attended his funeral in a body, and resolutions of condolence were also adopted at a meeting of the councils August 25, 1854.

Surely the life and labors of this modest and good Mason are worthy of enduring appreciation and remembrance by the brethren of the great Fraternity he loved so well, and we may fittingly close this account of his useful career by quoting the resolutions adopted by his Lodge, No. 45, prepared by a committee comprising Brothers John P. Glass, Alexander M. Pollock and William G. Algeo—resolutions notable for their loftiness of thought and beauty of expression:

Man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets. Our brother sleeps in death, and we are bowed down in sorrow. Death has been in our Temple, and the voice of him we loved so well will be heard no more. The Great Grand Master has decreed that the labors of Samuel McKinley should cease, and that he should be transferred for repose and refreshment to the Grand Lodge above.

While submissively bowing to our Divine Master's will, we cannot but deeply feel the separation that deprives us of the counsels of one whose matured wisdom, purity of life and Christian character, shed so bright a lustre upon our Order; therefore,

Resolved, that in the recent and unexpected death of our estimable brother, Samuel McKinley, Lodge 45 has lost one of its oldest and brightest members, and the Masonic Fraternity one of its most exemplary advocates and valued ornaments.

Resolved, that as men and Masons we deeply sympathize with the sorrowing family of the deceased; and while no expressions of grief can assuage their sorrow, we tender them the assurance that there are heavy hearts here, that loved him while living, and will emulate his virtues, now that he is dead.

JAMES S. HOON, 32°

When Brother Samuel McKinley found in the year 1853 that he would be unable to accept reappointment as D. D. Grand Master for the Fifth Masonic District, the R. W. Grand Master, Brother James Hutchinson, named Brother James S. Hoon for the office. The appointment was announced at the annual Grand Communication, December 27, 1853, in these words: "Br. James S. Hoon, of Pittsburgh, in place of Bro. Samuel McKinley, who declined reappointment, for the counties of Allegheny, Armstrong, Westmoreland, Beaver, Lawrence, Butler." It was certainly an extensive district; there was much to do in it, and during the two years he filled the office, Brother Hoon gave the work close and efficient attention.

In the list of the early members of Lodge 45 Brother Hoon is recorded as having become a member of that Body October 10, 1845. It is interesting to note that on exactly the same date a petition for membership in the same lodge was presented for James W. Hailman, and at the same time Brother McKinley was W. M. of Lodge 45. About the first thing mentioned in the minutes of the lodge concerning the activities of Brother Hoon, after he had received his last degree, was to serve on a committee formed "to take into consideration the propriety of issuing script by Lodge 45." This venerable organization was at that period, as were the other Pittsburgh Masonic Bodies, under financial stress, owing to the disastrous fire of April, 1845. The proposed "script" was to represent a loan of and be an acknowledgment for the sum of three dollars to the lodge from each holder of this script. Happily better days soon dawned, and this plan to raise money was not put into operation. He was conversant with financial affairs. Over a decade before becoming a member of the Craft he had formed a partnership in the banking and brokerage business with Thomas Sargent, the firm being known as Hoon & Sargent. This latter gentleman had come to Pittsburgh from Massillon, Ohio. For many years their place of business was at the corner of Wood and Sixth street. This business

association was continued until 1855, when Mr. Sargent moved to Fort Dodge, Iowa. He was a prominent Mason, being a member of a lodge at Canal Dover, Ohio. He however was active in the fraternity while residing in Pittsburgh, and at the first stated meeting of Gourgas Lodge of Perfection, held in the new Masonic hall in Pittsburgh, September 1, 1852, he was elected Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer.

Being familiar with financial affairs it is not surprising to find that at the first meeting of the newly organized Masonic Fund Society, January 8, 1848, Brother Hoon was chosen treasurer, an office which he held for seven successsive years. He was an indefatigable worker at anything he undertook, and during the time in which he was treasurer of the Society there were few meetings he did not attend and no financial transaction of the Society with which he was not connected.

He received the degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in 1852, the year in which the Rite was established in the Valley of Pittsburgh. With him to receive these degrees were Brothers James W. Hailman, Charles W. Ricketson, Samuel Eakin, Thomas Davage and Horatio N. Speer; and these brethren, acting under Ill. Bro. William G. Van Rennselaer, 33°, Deputy Inspector General, organized, formed and opened Gourgas Lodge of Perfection January 20, 1852. A week later the Ill. Deputy, under dispensation granted January 27, organized and opened, with the brothers above named, the Pennsylvania Grand Council of the Princes of Jerusalem. Brother Hoon was chosen as the first H. of T. D. G. Master and February 4, 1857, became Thrice Potent Master. He was chosen in 1852 as the first M. E. S. P. G. of the Princes of Jerusalem, and was also the first M. W. and P. of the Pittsburgh Chapter of Rose Croix and the first Commander-in-Chief of the Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret. Speaking of this period, that illustrious and accomplished Mason, the late Samuel Harper, 33°, said:

> Up to this date, (1869) the unwise policy had been pursued of electing the same brother as the presiding officer of all the Bodies. The first brother so chosen was brother Hailman, who was succeeded by Brother Hoon. These two brothers died in office, and that event

in both instances, left the bodies in a state of disorganization, as there was no one prepared to take up the work in any of them.

Brother Hoon was one of the members of the Fraternity who aided materially in the revival of Capitular Masonry in Western Pennsylvania. The Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania was organized as an independent body and a constitution adopted May 17, 1824. The next year Chapter 113 was organized in Pittsburgh, it having in fact been created years before under the authority of the Grand Lodge, which had then that power. This Pittsburgh Chapter had a precarious existence and disappeared in 1840. Thereafter for five years Capitular Masonry languished, until in 1846, a petition was presented to the Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania praying for a Warrant for the establishment of a new Chapter in Pittsburgh. Among the signers of this petition was Brother Hoon, who is designated therein as "a banker, of Lodge 45; Columbia Chapter No. 91." When the Chapter was constituted in Pittsburgh December 30, 1846, he was elected as the first Scribe. He took great interest in Chapter work and in 1851 was appointed D. D. G. H. P. by the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, and continued in that office until the end of 1854.

At a meeting of the Masonic Fund Society, July 3, 1855, Brother Hoon resigned as treasurer of that organization, after seven years of service. He had by this time become engrossed in the work both in the Scottish Rite and the Chapter. He had also in this year become an incorporator and later a director in that noted Pittsburgh banking institution, the Dollar Savings bank, chartered in 1855. In this year the partnership between him and Brother Thomas Sargent was dissolved, the latter removing to Fort Dodge, Iowa. About two years later Brother Hoon was elected alderman in the Second ward, Pittsburgh, and he then found it necessary to relinquish some of his Masonic labors and so resigned as treasurer of the Masonic Fund Society. He took this action with the understanding that he would be succeeded by one who would ably fill the office. That was Brother James S. Herdman, who was, in fact, chosen treasurer at the same meeting at which Brother Hoon resigned. In December of 1855 he also resigned as a member of the

Board of Trustees, and retired with the sincere friendship and good will of all the trustees. His last appearance at any meeting of the Masonic Fund Society was at a gathering of the stockholders, December 28, 1857, when he acted as one of the judges of election for trustees for the next year. At the time of his withdrawal from the Board of Trustees he was, and had been for some time past, a director in the Pittsburgh and Steubenville Railroad Company.

He died in Pittsburgh suddenly on February 3, 1859. Early in the evening of that day he was at the Masonic Hall on Fifth avenue and had started on his way home. While walking along Grant street near Diamond street he was suddenly taken ill and was taken into the law office of Nathaniel Buckemaster, Esq., then at No. 51 Grant street, where he expired in a short time. The following account of his death is given in the Pittsburgh "Gazette," of February 5, 1859:

On Thursday evening James S. Hoon, Esq., formerly of the firm of Hoon & Sargent, but lately alderman for the Second ward of this city, died at the office of N. Buckmaster. He had started to go home in company with several friends, and was attacked with a sudden and severe pain in the chest, which caused him to step aside at the office above mentioned, where he fell, and in a few moments expired. It was disease of the heart which caused his sudden demise. Mr. Hoon leaves a large circle of friends to mourn his loss. He will be buried with Masonic honors, having been D. D. G. M. of this district two years. He was 52 years of age and lived on Second street, and was a member of Lodge 45. He was a director at the time of his death in the Pittsburgh and Steubenville Railroad Company.

There is a more extended account of his death given in the April, 1859, number of Moore's Freemason's Magazine, published then in Boston, Mass., as follows, under the caption, "Brother Hoon:"

We are pained to be called on to announce the death of this excellent brother at Pittsburgh, Pa., on the evening of the third of February. He had been at the Masonic Hall to make arrangements for the public installation of the officers of the Consistory, to take place on the following day. He was apparently in better health and spirits than usual, and having completed the necessary arrangements, left for home. On the way he complained of a slight pain in the breast, but not enough to excite any uneasiness, and he stepped into the office of a friend for a moment, and while standing at the fire there, fell to the floor and instantly expired, says our correspon-

dent, "with words of cheerfulness in his mouth." He was a member of great respectability, and universally esteemed for the integrity of his character as a man and Mason. His loss will be severely felt by our brethren at Pittsburgh, with whose sympathies we earnestly mingle our own.

He was buried on February 6, 1859, the funeral being a large one, a large delegation of Brother Masons and hundreds of citizens generally following the remains to their last resting place. Thus passed from earth, in the midst of his many activities, a highly esteemed citizen and a useful and beloved brother Mason. He was a man who attracted and held friends and in the Masonic fraternity he was an hard worker and a safe adviser.

GEORGE W. LAYNG

On the evening of Tuesday, December 31, 1848, Brother George W. Layng spoke at a public meeting in Rev. Dr. Herron's First Presbyterian church in Pittsburgh. Primarily this meeting had been convened to advocate a movement for "the better observance of the Sabbath." It was, in fact, a feature of the early agitation in behalf of what is now designated as "civic reform." This movement was in general in accord with the convictions of Brother Layng. Early in life he had entered the ministry, but after some years of service, a throat disease had prevented his continuance in the pulpit. He then took up the practice of law. At the date of the church meeting mentioned above he had been a citizen of Pittsburgh for about eight years. He was originally a resident of Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; then later removed to Harrisburg, Pa., and in the year 1841 became a resident of Pittsburgh.

As sometimes happens in our days, the ardent reformers of Pittsburgh in 1848 went to extremes in their contest against evil, and demanded civic conditions and practices which could not be realized. There was a "memorial" presented for consideration at this meeting in Dr. Herron's

church, which denounced "Sabbath desecration" particularly, and cited as one of the evils the practice of running omnibusses on the streets of Pittsburgh on Sunday. Also there was condemnation of citizens who indulged in "pleasure rides" in their private conveyances on that day. Supporters of the memorial assailed the prevalent non-observance of the Sabbath and demanded the immediate suppression of all kinds of traffic on the public thoroughfares on Sunday, including driving for pleasure. Brother Layng, who was an ardent church member and worker, opposed the adoption of the memorial. He took the stand that where public opinion was not behind a law, such a law was not really inforceable. A newspaper of that date in a report of the meeting, has the following:

> Mr. Layng objected to the adoption of the Memorial. He thought it needless to ask for other enactments on the subject, when laws already existed which would remedy the evils, if public opinion could be brought to sustain their enforcement. He was, he said, anxious to effect the object of the meeting; but thought a better plan was to enforce existing laws. Public opinion, he declared, and not the law, was at fault. Mould public opinion aright, and the law was ample to remedy the evil. Now, he continued, the carriages of worshipping Christians were to be heard rolling upon the streets before the church services were closed. Under a law a hundred years old—the Act of 1705—the nuisance had been abated in Philadelphia. If we here in Pittsburgh could not reach private vehicles, we could stop all public conveyances, for carriages let out for hire. Our public officers could enforce the laws if sustained by public opinion. The running of private carriages could not, he said, be prevented by law, but only by public opinion. By making it unfashionable, the evil could be remedied.

It was doubtless that sort of knowledge of human nature and that sort of sensible advice which had brought George W. Layng, a new-comer in Pittsburgh, into prominence, and which if his good and useful life had been prolonged, would have made him an influential and conspicuous citizen. He was a man of convictions, a fact which he showed not only at the church meeting in 1848, but which he had more signally displayed and proved at an earlier date, when he stood up in the courts of Allegheny county and claimed the right of the negro people to the benefits of the public schools in Pittsburgh. He was one of the good men

and strong Masons of the early days of Pittsburgh—Masons whom the brethren of our day know too little of.

George W. Layng was made a Freemason in Lodge No. 61 at Wilkes-Barre, Pa., November 6, 1826, and later was its worshipful master. Years later, (the date is not known), he removed to Harrisburg, Pa., where he was admitted to practice law in the courts of Dauphin county. While a resident of that city he did not join a Masonic lodge, but took part in an effort to revive old Perseverance Lodge, No. 21, which had been constituted at Harrisburg back in 1779, but which had finally been swept under by the waves of the antimasonry troubles in 1837. On December 28, 1840, a petition was presented to the Grand Lodge, signed by sixteen members of the Order, for the revival of Perseverance Lodge under the name of the "Keystone Lodge." To this petition the name of Brother Layng was attached, in this manner: Geo. W. Laing, Wilkesbarre Lodge." As frequently happened, his name, when he did not write it himself, was spelled in a variety of ways. This effort to bring the ancient Harrisburg lodge into being, did not succeed. But later it was revived under the old name and number of Perseverance Lodge No. 21. The name of Brother Layng was not on this second and successful petition, which was acted on at a communication of the Grand Lodge on March 1, 1841. He had about that time, 1841, removed with his family, a wife and seven children to Pittsburgh, as the Allegheny County Court records show that he was admitted to the Bar there to practice law September 3, 1842. His admission was made on motion of Attorney James W. Buchanan on a certificate from Dauphin county. As a citizen of Pittsburgh he made an immediate and good impression. He soon became known as an energetic churchman, and took much interest in civic affairs. In 1846 he was commissioned by Governor Shunk as a notary public. It was not until the year 1846 that he again began to take an active part in Masonry, when we find him one of the charter members of St. John's Lodge, No. 219. In the proceedings of the Quarterly Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge of March 2, 1846, is this entry:

A petition for a Warrant to be held in Pittsburgh was read,

signed by the following named brethren, viz: Richard Cowan late of No. 45; Henry M. Smith late of No. 45; Alex. Tindall late of No. 165; Wm. J. Davitt late of No. 45; George R. White late of No. 165; S. Jones late of No. 113; James Shidle P. M. of No. 165; Geo. W. Larey P. M. of No. 61; Edw. S. Butler late Mt. Moriah, Louis., Ky.; and naming the following brethren as officers, viz: Richard Cowan, W. M.; Alexander Tindal, Sr. W.; Henry M. Smith, Jr. W.; Accompanying the petition was a recommendation from Lodge No. 45 at Pittsburg.

It will be seen by the above record that again Brother Layng's name is sadly misspelled. It is set down as "Geo. Larey," and as such is of course not generally recognizable as the name of one of the most progressive of the creators of the Masonic Fund Society. It may be observed too that in that petition Brother Tindle's name is also spelled wrongly. St. John's Lodge was constituted April 8, 1846, and Brother Layng was elected its first secretary, an office that he was filling at the time of his death, about three years later. It may be readily surmised that no sooner was Brother Layng back in the Masonic fold as a member of St. John's Lodge than with characteristic zeal he started to promote Masonic interests wherever he could. His popularity and recognized ability brought him into prominence, and in January, 1847, he was elected a member of the Pittsburgh Select Councils, in which body he served three years. He also continued his law practice, and his professional card in the newspapers in December, 1847, read:

George W. Layng—Attorney and Counsellor at Law and Notary Public at the corner of 4th & Wood Ste., over Sibbert & Jones' Exchange Office.

As a bit of local Pittsburgh history, it may be noted here that Brother Layng provided the first legal controversy over the contested claim of a Pittsburgh councilman to take his seat in that body. Having been chosen as a member of Select Council from the Seventh ward, the question arose as to whether the fact that he held the office of notary public did not render him ineligible to a seat in Councils. It was alleged that a provision in the then city charter rendered his election void under existing circumstances. Councils referred the problem to the City Solicitor, and he in turn submitted it to the courts, in the form of a case stated. In

a written opinion Judges Hepburn and Lowrie sustained the claim of Brother Layng and he took his seat as elected.

Brother Layng's services as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society were of great and permanent value. At the convocation of the Pittsburgh brethren held December 25, 1847, at which the Committee of Seven was appointed to begin the great work of establishing the Society, he was named as the representative of St. John's Lodge, No. 219. Afterwards various meetings of the Board of Trustees were held at his office, and apparently both the charter and the by-laws of the Masonic Fund Society were written there by him and Brother Judge Charles Shaler.

The death of this estimable Mason was peculiarly sad. He had worked hard for the organization of the Masonic Fund Society and the erection of a fine Hall for the brethren, and was looking forward with eager anticipation to the ceremonial laying of the corner stone. But the devotion of a son to the welfare of a father was, in the mind of George Layng, paramount to other important matters. And that devotion brought him to the end of his earthly career. In the year 1850 the scourge of cholera raged in many parts of the United States. At that time his father, an aged man, was living in Mobile, Alabama, where the disease had spread. Anxious for the fate of his parent, Brother Layng determined to bring him to Pittsburgh, and in a short time before the laying of the corner stone of the new Masonic building he went to Mobile. He returned to Pittsburg with his father a few days after the corner stone had been put in place on July 4th. On the night of the 10th of July he himself was stricken with the dread disease and died a few hours later at his home at No. 145 Center avenue. Additionally distressing was the fate of his family by the fact that three days after his death Mrs. Layng and two of her daughters were also struck down by the same terrible scourge. The widow and one daughter recovered, but the eldest, a girl, aged 18 years, was laid in her grave less than a week after the funeral of her father. Brother Layng's death was a sad blow to his host of friends and particularly his Masonic brethren and brother attorneys; and so highly

was he esteemed that it was deemed proper to publicly recognize his worth at the meeting of the Allegheny county Bar which had been convened to take suitable action over the death of a President of the United States. President Zachary Taylor had recently died, and on July 11, 1850, a large assemblage of the members of the Pittsburgh Bar met in the Court house to give due honor to the memory of the nation's chief executive. Judge McClure presided, and various addresses were made eulogistic of the dead President. At the conclusion of the last address, Judge McClure announced the death of Brother George W. Layng, and on motion it was decided to continue the meeting in order to pay deserved tribute to his memory. Attorneys Mahon, Samuel W. Black and George P. Hamilton were appointed a committee to draw up memorial resolutions, and in presenting them Mr. Hamilton said:

I yesterday met Mr. Layng in the street. He appeared as healthy and as cheerful as usual. This morning the first news that reached my ears was of his death. Mr. Layng enjoyed the confidence of this court and the respect of the Bar. He was the architect of his own fortune—a self-made man. He was an industrious man, and an honest man; and in the true sense of the term, a good man. His brethren of the Bar have cause to lament his death. But we might find some consolation, did the consequences of his death cease here. Alas! He has left a helpless family—an aged father, a wife and seven children.

Judge McClure followed with a very sympathetic address, in which he said:

Mr. Layng enjoyed the confidence of this court. I last met him on the wharf some weeks ago. He told me he was about to make a tour in the South. I am told that on Tuesday he returned, in seeming good health and buoyant in spirits. Not one of us was prepared for a loss so sudden. When a man lingers upon a bed of sickness, we become accustomed to it, and the news of his death does not astound us. But the announcement made this morning strikes us like a pistol shot.

A beautiful tribute was paid to the memory of the deceased attorney by Brother Samuel W. Black, who said:

Our brother has died from enacting the noblest duty a man can perform. The duty of a child to a father should have a sanctified remembrance. When in the olden time, amidst the dangers of a burning city, a son was seen carrying upon his back the old citizen, Anchisas, the son's name was commemorated in song and story and he became immortal. Our friend and brother, in a transaction some-

what similer, in bringing his aged father through the devouring pestilence safely to a sweet home, accomplished his purpose—and died. Yesterday Mr. Layng was as full of life and light as any of us. Today he is dead. So quickly do bright things come to confusion.

We turn aside here for a moment to reflect how singularly prophetic is that last striking sentence in Colonel Black's eulogy. For in times later in the midst of our great Civil War this gallant and accomplished gentleman and Mason was to fall fighting gloriously on the field of battle. And then again it could have been well said: "So quickly do bright things come to confusion."

At this meeting of the Pittsburgh Bar sympathetic resolutions in memory of Brother Layng were adopted, and under the caption, "The Death of a Good Man," the Pittsburgh "Post" of July 12, 1850, said:

It grieves us exceedingly to perform the duty of announcing the death of our esteemed friend and fellow citizen, George W. Layng, Esq., a member of the Pittsburg Bar. He died on Wednesday at his residence in the Seventh ward, from an attack of that dreaded disease, the cholera. The circumstances attending his death made it peculiarily afflicting. Mr. Layng had just returned from a trip to Mobile, where he had gone for the purpose of bringing his venerable father to Pittsburgh. He enjoyed good health and was in excellent spirits on Wednesday, and seemed happy in again joining his family, to whom he was devotedly attached. But in the midst of life we are in death. When his cup of joy was full to the brim—when sunshine and gladness smiled around him on every side—he closed his eyes in death. Mr. Layng was a useful and enterprising citizen. In every movement calculated to advance the interests of Pittsburg he was a prominent actor. As a member of our city councils he was untiring in his devotion to the public good. For several years past he discharged the duties of notary public, an office to which he had been appointed by Governor Shunk, whose confidence in Mr. Layng was unlimited. As a member of the Bar, the deceased had the reputation of being an honest and conscientious advocate. He was also active as a member of the Masonic fraternity, and it was greatly through his efforts that the work of erecting a Masonic Temple in this city was commenced.

We may properly conclude this sketch of the life of this good man and useful Mason with words from the resolution adopted by St. John's Lodge, No. 219, which he had aided to bring into existence:

In the death of Brother George W. Layng his amiable wife has

lost a loving husband; his children, a kind and indulgent father; our community, a valuable citizen, and our Order a worthy member.

WILLIAM W. WILSON

Although Brother William W. Wilson was one of the seven Masons, with Hailman, McKinley, Layng, Hoon, Sargent and McCammon, who organized the Masonic Fund Society for the County of Allegheny, his first service on the Board of Trustees was only during the first year, 1848, of its existence. It was not until 1854, in January, that he again became a trustee. He was not a candidate for reelection at the close of 1848; but his withdrawal from this particular line of Masonic activities had become a matter of necessity. At that period not only was the business of Brother Wilson, that of jeweler, demanding his close attention, but he was also widely engaged in the extension of Templar Masonry throughout Pennsylvania. He had received the Orders of the Red Cross and Temple in Wheeling Commandery, No. 1, April 25, 1847. Among his fellow candidates for those honors were two future Masonic Fund Society trustees, Brothers Samuel McKinley and James S. Hoon. Knight Wilson immediately took up the great line of Templar work, and he achieved a deservedly prominent place. In the records of the proceedings of the G. G. Encampment held in Columbus, Ohio, September, 1847, is the following from the report of the Deputy Grand Master of Pennsylvania:

On the 13th of May last I received an application from Sir Knights Alexander McCammon, W. W. Wilson, James S. Hoon, S. McKinley and others, at Pittsburgh, Pa., praying for authority to establish in the city of Pittsburgh, subordinate to the General Grand Encampment of the United States, and confiding in the thus vouched high character of the Sir Knights of Pittsburgh, immediately on the receipt of the usual fee required by our Constitution, I made out and issued to them my Warrant of Dispensation, authorizing the establishment at Pittsburgh of a Council of Red Cross Knights and and Encampment, as prayed for in their petition. From the information I

have received, I entertain the belief that this Encampment will be found worthy of the high honors confided to it.

It will thus be seen that at the time Brother Wilson had been elected one of the first trustees of the Masonic Fund Society he was busily engaged in Templar work. But he again became a member of the Board of Trustees in 1854 and was elected secretary June 12 of that year to succeed Brother Alexander R. Reinhart, deceased. On January 1, 1855, his place as secretary was taken by Dr. Alexander M. Pollock; but in January, 1856, he was again elected secretary. He was a regular attendant at the meetings of the trustees and was always at the front in the promotion of its interests and the good of the Craft in general.

He was admitted as a member of Lodge 45 November 1, 1844, having previously belonged to one of the other old lodges, which have long ago gone out of existence. But to which of these Bodies he belonged is not now known. He withdrew from Lodge 45 and became a charter member of Franklin Lodge, No. 221, which was constituted October 15, 1846. He was the first W. M. of that lodge and also served in that capacity through the year 1847. He was one of the charter members of Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162, having previously been made a Royal Arch Mason in the old Columbia Chapter, No. 91, constituted in Philadelphia in the year 1822. He probably joined that as a Sojoiner, while living temporarily in Philadelphia. He was the first King of Zerubbabel Chapter, but did not advance to higher stations, his duties as a trustee of the Masonic Fund Society and in other Masonic Bodies taking up too much of his time to allow for Chapter work.

It was as a Templar Mason that Brother Wilson became most widely known. He was installed June 22, 1847, Generalissimo of Pittsburgh Commandery, or Encampment, as it was then known, and was again chosen to that position December 1, 1847, and again elected December, 1848. He was chosen as the first E. C. of that Commandery. He continued in that office until 1856. At a Conclave of Pittsburgh Encampment, No. 1, in January, 1854, E. Sir Wilson announced that a State Encampment had been formed for Pennsylvania, and on March 14, of that year, he was ap-

pointed by the Pittsburgh Encampment to represent them in the convention which established that State Encampment. In 1854 he was elected Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania at Brownsville, Pa., and was re-elected for the next year at Pittsburgh. In a recital of his labors and accomplishments as a Knight Templar, published in the records of Pittsburgh Commandery, No. 1, is the following tribute:

E. Sir Wilson was our first Eminent Commander and the first Grand Commander of the State of Pennsylvania, and as such we should feel a pride and loving reverence for a man so distinguished in our early history. The records show that he was faithful in his obligations, missing but few of the Conclaves and was well thought of by his Fraters, as they continued him in the high office of Commander for years. At this late day there is no one to tell of his personal characteristics; but we can honor him for his great service to No. 1 Commandery in particular, and Freemasonry in general.

The life of this useful and eminent Mason ended December 1, 1865, at his home in Pittsburgh.

JOHN SARGENT

Although Brother John Sargent was one of the original seven Masons who comprised the first Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society, he served through a period of only a year and a half. He was named as trustee at the convocation held December 25, 1847, and remained on the Board until 16th of May, 1850. The minutes of the meetings of the Trustees on that date state that "Brother John Sargent having announced that he was about to remove from Pitssburgh, he could not therefore serve any longer." Thereupon his resignation was accepted. At the same meeting Brother J. C. Cole, who had been elected a trustee six months before, also resigned, and his resignation was also agreed to. Tese vacancies were filled by the election of Brother James Shidle and William Noble.

Apparently shortly after his retirement from the Board

of Trustees in May, 1850, Brother John Sargent removed from Pittsburgh; but there seems to be no information obtainable as to the place of his new abode. He had prior to his departure been a druggist in old Allegheny City. He was a member of Franklin Lodge, No. 221, and was one of the first members of Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162, constituted December 30, 1846. The minutes show that he was admitted to the Chapter in company with Companion Shepley R. Holmes, John Birmingham, James D. Torbett and several others. He was also a member of Pittsburgh Commandery, No. 1, K. T., having been knighted October 6, 1847.

ALEXANDER McCAMMON

Brother Alexander McCammon, who was made a Freemason in Lodge 45 January 27, 1841, was a trustee of the Masonic Fund Society through the year 1848 and again during the year 1851. At the memorable convocation of the Pittsburgh brethren on December 25, 1847, when the first seven trustees were designated, he was one of the seven chosen. At this period, Brother McCammon was a wholesale and retail shoe dealer in Pittsburgh, his place of business being at No. 12 Market street. He was for a number of years active in Lodge 45 and was their W. M. in 1846-47. His name occurs frequently in the minutes of that lodge and we read that at a meeting held September 26, 1845, "on motion of Bro. McCammon five members of Lodge 45 be elected, who shall be styled the Trustees of Charity, and shall serve until the November election; whereupon, the following brethren were duly elected: A. McCammon, Cowan, Zimmerman, McKinley and Rodgers." In those days it was customary to present diplomas to past masters and it is carefully recorded that at a meeting of the lodge on March 26, 1851, a committee was appointed "to procure a diploma, to be by Lodge 45 presented to P. M. Brother

Alexander McCammon," which pleasant duty the committee performed and at a meeting, March 31, of that year, "Right W. D. D. G. M. S. McKinley, on the part of Lodge 45 presented P. M. A. McCammon with a beautiful and appropriate Diploma, which was received by Brother McCammon with many thanks."

Brother McCammon was one of the charter members of Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162. The meeting for constituting the Chapter was held in the little Masonic Hall at the corner of Wood and Third streets, Pittsburgh, December 30, 1846. His name, along with those of Brothers William W. Wilson, James S. Hoon, Samuel McKinley and others, was on the application sent in 1847 to Sir William B. Hubbard, G. G. Captain General of the General Grand Encampment, K. P., praying for authority to establish an Encampment, as it was then designated, in Pittsburgh. A charter was granted for Pittsburgh Commandery, No. 1, and it was organized May 13, 1847, with Brother McCammon as the first Eminent Commander. He held that office until he was succeeded, December 5, 1852, by Sir William W. Wilson. During the year 1847 Brother McCammon served as a member of Select Council of Pittsburgh from the Fifth ward.

JAMES HERDMAN, 32°

When Brother James Herdman, 32°, died October 31, 1894, at his home in old Allegheny City, now merged into the municipality of Pittsburgh, Milnor lodge, No. 287, of which he was a charter member, adopted memorial resolutions, wherein occurs the following:

> Having served his time as Master of the lodge, he was elected Treasurer in December, 1855, and re-elected to the same office each succeeding year during the remainder of his life. Therefore, it may be said that he gave more than forty of his best year to its service.

The above statements express a characteristic of Brother Herdman which was in fact, the secret of his success

as a Mason of usefulness and prominence and as an influential factor in the financial and business development of Pittsburgh in early days. It was characteristic of him that once he took up a policy or line of work, there was no wavering in his course of action. For just as he had, as noted above, continued as treasurer of Milnor lodge for forty years, so also for forty years he helped to guide the financial affairs of the Masonic Fund Society as one of the Trustees; so also he remained for twenty-seven years an efficient member of the Committee on Finance of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania; and so also he filled the offices of director and later president of the Pittsburgh Dollar Savings bank for a period of over thirty-five years. He was a man of many activities and had a mind that brought results.

This notable Mason was born in Washington County, Pa., November 26, 1815. He came to Pittsburgh before he was of age, and engaged in the leather business on Wood street near Diamond street. Later he extended his trade to hardware and saddlery, in which business he remained until the year 1880. In 1855 he became one of the incorporators and later the president of the of the Dime Savings Bank, now known as the Dollar Savings Bank, and in 1857 an incorporator of the Iron City Bank. He was also connected with the People's Insurance Co. and was a member of the old Railroad Sinking Fund Commission of Pittsburgh, of which he was treasurer. He also served in the Pittsburgh city councils from the old Third ward and for a number of years was a director of the public schools.

Made a Freemason in Lodge 45 on October 31, 1851, he withdrew from that body to aid in the formation of Milnor Lodge, No. 287, in 1854. At its constitution April 18, of that year, he was made the first Senior Warden, and in the following December was elected Worshipful Master. Having filled that chair for twelve months, he was elected at the close of 1855 the treasurer of his lodge, and was filling that office at the time of his death in 1894.

From the day he was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in Lodge 45 he became conspicuous as an active worker in the Fraternity, closely associated with such Masons as Shaler, McKinley, Shidle, Hailman, Tindle,

Pollock and other leading brethren of those times. It seems only a natural thing, therefore, that a Mason of his calibre should become a member of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society, and to this office he was elected by the stockholders in December, 1854. He became a veritable Pillar of the Temple there. Elsewhere in this volume have been related successively his effective work in tiding the Masonic Fund Society over financial troubles and in directing its affairs towards those brilliant successes which have followed his safe and sure guidance.

On December 27, 1867, Brother Richard Vaux, then the R. W. Grand Master of Pennsylvania Masons, appointed Brother Herdman as a member of the Grand Lodge Committee on Finance, and he served on that committee until the last day of his life, in 1894. At the Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge held December 27, 1895, R. W. Grand Master Mathias H. Henderson paid this deserved tribute to the memory and labors of Brother Herdman:

Our Grand Lodge finances have been handled so judiciously that our loans have always occupied a high place in financial centers and have been eagerly sought by conservative investors, who desired a high class security. * * * Since the creation of the new Masonic Temple Loan (in Philadelphia), a number of faithful brethren have given their best energies and much of their time to the duties of the Committee on Finance. I recall in the order of their appointment the names of Robert Clark, P. G. M.; Francis Blackburn, James Herdman, William H. Eagle, John C. Yeager, E. Harper Jeffries, Augustus R. Hall and Robert Dechert. These have all gone to their reward, leaving behind them records showing that they were faithful to every trust. While not wishing to give undue prominence to any, where all were so deserving, I may be excused for calling attention to Brother James Herdman, on account of his long service on the Committee and the unusual difficulties which attended his performance of its duties. He was first appointed by G. M. Richard Vaux, December 27, 1867, and was a member of Milnor Lodge, No. 287, of Pittsburgh, where he resided, 354 miles from the seat of the Grand Lodge. Notwithstanding this distance, he rarely missed the regular meetings of the Committee, which are held on the fourth Monday of February, May, August and November, and he attended the one immediately preceding his death, which occurred October 31, 1894, at the age of 79 years. A man of business who was successful in his own affairs, he placed his experience and commercial training at the service of the Grand Lodge, and took pleasure and pride in doing so. He never would accept any return for his traveling ex-

penses, and after his death suitable resolutions were adopted and presented to his family.

It was during the incumbency of Brother Herdman as a member of the Grand Lodge Finance Committee that an important change was made in the holding of title to the valuable Temple property in Philadelphia. By a deed of trust, title to the property, which had reposed in the R. W. Grand Master, the Grand Lodge conveyed the title to "five brothers to be selected by the Grand Lodge, who, and their successors, shall hold the same in trust;" and at the Quarterly Communication held December, 1885, on motion of Brother Michael Arnold, it was—

Resolved, that Brothers Richard Vaux, Robert A. Lamberton, E. Coppee Michel, John C. Yeager and James Herdman, be the Trustees of the title to the Masonic Temple, in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee of Finance; approved at this Communication of the Grand Lodge.

In the memorable work of establishing the Scottish Rite in the Valley of Pittsburgh, which had its beginning in June, 1852, Brother Herdman took a conspicuous part. In 1854 Brother Herdman became connected with the Rite. In January of that year he received the Ineffable Grades in Gourgas Lodge of Perfection. But he went no further until 1866, when in April he received the Ancient Traditional Degrees in the Pennsylvania Council of Princes of Jerusalem, the grades of the Pittsburgh Chapter of Rose Croix and the Historical and Chevalric grades in the Pennsylvania Consistory. In that year, 1866, he was chosen treasurer of all the Scottish Rite Bodies and served in that capacity until 1874, when Brother Charles A. Colton, 32°, succeeded him. In October, 1854, Brother Herdman became a member of Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162, and later was knighted in Tancred Commandery, No. 48, K. T. In the establishment in 1860 of the Masonic Consolidated Charity Fund, which a few years ago was by mutual arrangement merged into the activities of the Masonic Fund Society, Brother Herdman took a leading part. He was the first treasurer and held that office the remainder of his life.

Although the business interests of Brother Herdman were varied and important, he was not what we would call in these days a very rich man. But he was generous and

had a quiet way of doing charitable acts without the fact being generally known, and he gave liberally to charitable institutions. It has been said of him that he was practically a self-made man in the real sense of the phrase; noted for his simple habits, rigid probity and his extreme reserve, which, however, would relax at the most unexpected moments into a dry and genial frankness and humor.

Brother Herdman died after some weeks of illness on October 31, 1894, and his funeral took place on November 3. On that day at high noon Gourgas Lodge of Perfection, A. A. S. R., held a Lodge of Sorrow in his memory, there being a large attendance of brethren conspicuous in the Order in Pittsburgh. The Lodge of Sorrow was constituted in Freemasons Hall on Fifth avenue as follows: Ills. Brothers Arthur B. Wigley, 33°, Worshipful Master; Allen C. Kerr, 32°, S. W.; Charles M. Bartberger, 32°, J. W.; James B. Youngson, 32°, Chaplain; George W. Guthrie, 33°, Orator; Joseph G. Morris, 32°, M. of C. Other Ills. Brothers present were James I. Buchanan, 33°; David A. Stevenson, 33°; DeWitt C. Carroll, 33°; William H. Slack, 33°; Americus V. Holmes, 33°; James Kerr, 33°; and Charles W. Batcheler. An extensive account of the funeral was given in the "Pittsburgh Gazette," from which the following is taken:

The last of the charter members of the Pennsylvania Consistory of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Masons in the Valley of Pittsburgh was buried according to the simple services of the Order, in the Allegheny cemetery. The funeral took place place at 2 o'clock P. M., from the family residence, No. 30 Arch street, Allegheny. The Rev. Robert Meech, rector of Christ Episcopal Church, Allegheny, conducted the services at the house. The Scottish Rite bodies had held their Lodge of Sorrow at 12:00 M., in the Masonic Hall on Fifth avenue. After a short service, the members proceeded in carriages to the house on Arch street. The funeral procession was a very long one, and in the carriages were the most prominent business men of the two cities. The Masonic ceremonies at the grave were touching and simple. The Master, Arthur B. Wigley; the S. W., Allen C. Kerr, and the J. W., Charles M. Bartberger, each said a few words as to how the truly good man anticipates death and how his works survive him. The chaplain, James B. Youngson, then offered prayer. Then the W. M., speaking again, referred to the worthiness of the dead brother. The junior warden deposited on the grave a bunch of white flowers, emblematic of the life passed away,

and the S. W. deposited a bunch of white flowers. Then the W. M., with a wreath of evergreen in his hands, spoke of the virtues of the deceased brother.

The Scottish Rite pall bearers were: William G. McCandless, George W. Guthrie, Joseph Eichbaum, D. A. Stevenson, James I. Buchanan, W. P. Lupton, DeWitt C. Carroll and C. W. Batcheler. The honorary pall bearers were, Thomas H. Lane, A. D. Smith, W. W. Speer, A. W. Pollock, C. A. Cole, S. C. McCandless, A. M. Byers and John Farrell.

The eloquent and sincere memorial resolutions adopted by the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society, of which Brother Herdman had been so long a member, epitomize his life and services so well that we give them here in full:

Brother James Herdman became a member of the Masonic Fund Society on December 27, 1854. He was elected Treasurer of the Society July 3, 1855, and held that position continuously from that time until his death.

For forty years he served the Society faithfully and efficiently, giving his abilities, time and labor to the duties of his office ungrudgingly, and without asking or receiving any compensation or reward, except the consciousness of a duty well discharged.

He early foresaw the importance of securing the shares of the Society for the various Bodies meeting in the Hall. Through adversity and prosperity he adhered to his idea, and to him more than to any other person is due the fact that the control of the property of the Society is vested in those beneficially interested in it, instead of in persons who would be indifferent, or perhaps hostile, to the Fraternity.

Owing to his position, shareholders desiring to dispose of their shares would offer them to him. He knew the property and firmly believed that it would continually increase in value and ultimately become very productive. He could have purchased the shares and realized for himself the great profit which has been made by the fraternity.

But money so made had no temptation for him. Putting aside all consideration of self, he turned over to the different Masonic Bodies meeting in the Hall all stock purchased by him, at cost; and to his faithfulness and foresight is due the fact that out of 6,186 shares, 5,067 are now owned by them. For this alone, the Fraternity owe to him a debt of deepest gratitude, and should forever cherish his memory.

"Simple in life, honest in purpose, wise in council, conservative in judgment and fearless in action, he discharged the duties of his trust with honor to himself and benefit to those whose interests were entrusted to him"—it was in those words the Trustees of the Dollar Savings Bank referred to him in their tribute to his memory. It is

a truthful and accurate description of the character of our brother, and it is right and proper to adopt them for our own.

Through his high ability, integrity and industry he rose to a position of great responsibility and influence in the community, where his time and energy were taxed to their fullest capacity. Yet he never failed in the fulfillment of the duties which he owed to the Fraternity. He always found the time and strength to discharge the duties of the many offices to which his brethren called him.

Honored and successful, a smaller man would have been inflated with his own importance; but truly, no man ever saw upon his face a look of pride, save only—

The holy pride of a good intent,
The record of a life well spent.

Brother Herdman was held in the greatest affection by his fellow members of Milnor Lodge, No. 287, and they gave eloquent expression to their great loss in the resolutions they adopted, and of which the following is a part:

He was our representative on the committee having control and disbursement of the Consolidated Charity Fund of this county and the chairman of its three trustees, elected pursuant to a provision in the late revision of our by-laws. But his attachment to this lodge did not end with the faithful discharge of his official duties. He invariably attended the meetings of the lodge until failing health prevented him. He was comparatively a quiet man; but when he raised his voice in open lodge, it was with no uncertain sound, and always for the good of Masonry in general, and this lodge in particular. After a well spent life he has gone to "his home," where most of the Masons who knew him best and appreciated him most, have preceded him.

There is no one who can exactly fill the place in the lodge made vacant by his death. But we may follow with profit the example he has left us.

JAMES SHIDLE

Now and then it becomes the particular privilege of some great organization in the business, educational or social world to point to the fact that in its directorate successive generations of one family have had a large share in the management of its affairs. Such a signal instance of the successive representation of one family has fallen to the lot of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society for

the County of Allegheny, which came into existence in the last month of the year 1847. This representation had its beginning seventy years ago, when Brother James Shidle, a Mason of prominence and influence in the then small city of Pittsburgh, was elected a member of that Board of Trustees. And down through that long stretch of years the name of Shidle has been most worthily carried on the list of trustees by father, son and grandson.

James Shidle was elected a trustee on May 16, 1850. His son, Geter C. Shidle, became his successor on the Board December 27, 1882, and his grandson, Fager Jackson Shidle, was elected December 27, 1916, and with earnest devotion to Masonry still remains a member of the Board.

With the exception of the years 1854 and 1857, when he was not a candidate, Brother James Shidle was a trustee from 1850 to the time of his death in the year 1879, having therefore held the office for a total period of 27 years. At the annual organization of the Board of Trustees in January, 1877, he was chosen president and was filling that position when he died.

At the time of his selection in 1850 as a trustee, Brother Shidle was an extensive dealer in wall paper at No. 59 Smithfield street, Pittsburgh. He had learned the business of manufacturing and selling wall paper in his boyhood days, and later built up a large trade, and in the year 1855 was one of the incorporators of the Pittsburgh Dollar Savings Bank.

While Brother Shidle was a member of only two Masonic Bodies, in these he was ever at the front in advancing the interests of the great Order he loved so well. He had been made a Master Mason, July 18, 1821, in old Milnor Lodge, No. 165, which went out of existence in 1837 and in which he had been worshipful master. Eleven years after the disappearance of Milnor Lodge, he became a charter member of St. John's Lodge, No. 219, in 1846. He never held an office, except treasurer, in that Body, but was always active in helping along its progress. Having, however, been a past master of the first Milnor Lodge, he was presented, on December 12, 1861, with Past Masters Davage and Evans, by St. John's Lodge with a diploma, "as a token of

respect for their long, faithful and acceptable services, and the interest ever manifested for the welfare of the lodge." He had been elected treasurer of that lodge, succeeding Brother George W. Layng, who died in 1851, and he continued in that position until his death in 1879. All the records we have of the career of Brother Shidle show that he was held in affectionate esteem by the brethren. On May 14, 1868 St. John's lodge gave him in a gracious manner another testimonial, when its officers and past masters made him a gift of a gold headed cane, he being, as the records of the event states, "the only charter member of St. John's Lodge now remaining in the lodge, and as a brother who has been elected an officer (treasurer) of the lodge at every annual election since its constitution," and the gift is made,"as a token of their appreciation of his long, faithful and continued services, of the zeal, integrity and fidelity with which for twenty years he had discharged the duties of treasurer of the lodge, and of their high estimation of his character as an honest, faithful and upright man and Mason."

November 12, 1857, Brother Shidle with Past Master Davage and Senior Warden Wickersham was appointed by St. John's Lodge "to confer with other lodges as to the propriety of establishing a charity fund," which fund, by the concerted action of other lodges, culminated in the Masonic Consolidated Charity Fund in 1860, with a Board of Managers, of which Brother James Shidle was chairman to the end of his days. On October 1, 1850, he became a member of Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162.

The death of this valued and esteemed Mason caused sincere sorrow in the breasts of hundreds of people in Pittsburgh. The Pittsburgh "Post" of January 16, 1879, gave this sketch of his life:

Mr. James Shidle, one of our oldest and most respected citizens, died at his residence, No. 72 Centre avenue, at half-past one o'clock yesterday afternoon. The deceased had been ill for some time. Mr. Shidle was one of the oldest residents of Pittsburgh. He was born in Philadelphia on January 14, 1800. When quite young he took up his residence in Baltimore and after a brief stay there, he decided to emigrate to Pittsburgh—then far West. Conestoga wagons were then not in use, at least between Baltimore and Pittsburgh; and the young man accordingly set out on foot, and walked the entire dis-

tance. He found a position in Pittsburgh in the exchange office of Mr. John Towne, the first broker's office ever established in Pittsburgh. Some time afterwards he engaged in the wall paper business with Messrs. Lambie & Patterson at their old mill on Ross street, having accepted the position of foreman. Later on he embarked in the same business for himself, first conducting his trade in the old Point warehouse, near the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers. He occupied this building in the memorable year of 1832, when the whole Point was submerged by the great flood. He then opened a store on St. Clair street and continued in the wall paper business from that time until January 1, 1878, a period of 46 years, when he retired.

As soon as Mr. Shidle had reached his majority he connected himself with the Masonic fraternity in 1821. He was the father of Geter C. Shidle, the well known citizen who represented the Second Allegheny county district in the Pennsylvania Legislature in 1875-76, and who is himself one of the leading members in Pennsylvania of the Masonic fraternity. James Shidle, the deceased, was a valued and highly respected citizen of this community, was a man of sterling integrity, of kindly disposition and his death will be sadly mourned. Mr. Shidle was 79 years old on Tuesday, the day before his death. He was 58 years a member of the Masonic fraternity.

The funeral of Brother James Shidle took place from his residence on the Friday afternoon following his death, the services being conducted at the home of the deceased by Rev. J. J. Murray, and there was a large attendance of the brethren at the grave. At a meeting of the Board of Trustees held April 1, 1879, the following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, it has pleased an All-Wise Providence to call from his earthly labors Brother James Shidle, late President of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society; and,

Whereas, it is meet that when a good man dies, that his virtues should be noted, so that his brethren may emulate them; therefore,

Resolved, that we, his intimate friends and companions in office, express our sorrow at the decree which now separates us, but bow in submission to the will of Him who doeth all things well;

Resolved, that through a long life—for he came to his grave in a full age, like the corn cometh in its season—Brother Shidle so conducted himself as to endear him to all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance; and in his business relations he leaves a record worthy of imitation;

Resolved, that his death leaves a vacancy on this Board which his successor may feel proud to fill, with like credit to himself and benefit to the Society.

THOMAS DAVAGE, 32°

Brother Thomas Davage, 32°, was elected a trustee of the Masonic Fund Society in 1854, and served continuously until his death, April 14, 1876. He was one of the Board's most efficient and popular members. At the time of election as trustee he was a manufacturer in Pittsburgh of block and tackle, in which business he continued until his death. He was born near Cowes, Isle of Wight, England December 26, 1800. At the age of 25 years, allured by the spirit of adventure, he adopted the career of sailor, and for five years was on ships sailing the Atlantic ocean. At a later period he came to Pittsburgh to live, and until the year 1832 was employed as a mate on steam boats in the Western rivers. In 1832 he established himself in Pittsburgh in business.

He became a member of St. John's Lodge, No. 219, November 18, 1848. The next year he joined Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162, and received the orders of Knighthood in Pittsburgh Commandery, No. 1, May 7, 1850. He received the Scottish Rite degrees in 1852, and was also a member of Mt. Moriah Chapter, No. 2. In 1857 he was appointed D. D. Grand Master and served with distinction in that position until 1869. Writing of this valued brother, the late Brother Samuel Harper, 33°, said:

> I know of no one accomplishing so much in the face of so many disadvantages as Brother Davage. As far as schooling was concerned, he had practically no education; the rough and stirring life he led for seventeen years offered him but little if any opportunity to overcome the disadvantages of his early life, and his connection with Masonry at the advanced age of forty-eight years could give him but little promise of usefulness to the Craft. But our Brother was by nature eminently fitted for the duties of a Mason. Possessed of a bright and active intelligence, a reverent and God-fearing spirit and a warm, expansive heart, he at once comprehended the nature and duties of this obligations and vows, and by his loyal duty, unremitting toil and unflagging zeal, took high rank as a workman and became a respected authority in all branches of the Order.

He was Worshipful Master of St. John's Lodge, No. 219, in 1852 and again in 1862 and High Priest of his Chapter and Eminent Commander of his Commandery in 1856.

After passing from the Chair in the Commandery, he assumed the duties of prelate, and was retained in that office many years. In the Scottish Rite, says Brother Samuel Harper, "he occupied the position next the throne in all the Bodies for several years, and at the death of Ill. Bro. Isaac Whittier, 33°, in 1869, he was urged to assume the duties of the office rendered vacant by that sad event. But this he declined to do, saying that his advancing age and impaired health would not enable him to discharge the duties either with credit to himself or profit to the brethren. Not only was brother Davage proficient in Masonic ritual, but he had an extensive knowledge of Masonic law and procedure."

In 1875 an illness which had long afflicted him, grew worse, and Brother Samuel Harper has left a touching recital of his last days:

> He called the writer, (Brother Harper) to him in the latter part of December to arrange the legal forms to secure the disposition he desired to make of his property; and when the execution of his will was complete he said: Now, all my worldly affairs are settled, and I am ready for the Lord's call at any moment." But he still lingered and suffered, in faith and hope, until April 14th, 1876, when he gently and peacefully entered into rest. Two days later he was buried in Allegheny cemetery, with full Masonic ceremonies, as he desired, the attendance of the brethren being the largest ever known in Pittsburgh. Besides a very large concourse of Blue Lodge Masons, three Commanderies, Pittsburgh, No. 1, Tancred, No. 48 and Allegheny No. 35, participated. The full burial service of the Blue Lodge and Commandery was performed, to which was added a very beautiful and impressive service peculiar to the A. A. S. Rite, arranged for the occasion by Ill. George W. Guthrie, 33°, at the time T. P. G. M. of Gourgas Grand Lodge of Perfection.

Ten years before his death the great services and high character of Brother Davage were signally recognized by giving his name to a new lodge, Davage Lodge, No. 374, constituted at Pittsburgh October 22, 1866.

JUDGE CHARLES SHALER

To write a biography of Brother Judge Charles Shaler would not only require many pages, but also necessitate the recital of much of the early history of Pittsburgh and of Allegheny county. When it is recalled that his professional career began in the year 1815, that his public life started in 1818, that as early as 1822 he was a conspicuous member of the Masonic fraternity and that his days on earth did not end until five years after the close of the Civil War, it may well be claimed that no satisfactory recital of the life of this notable Mason can be crowded into the compass of a mere sketch.

Charles Shaler was born in the village of Middletown, Connecticut, in 1788, and received his early education in Schnectady, N. Y., where as a youth he took up the study of law. His father, however, was looking towards the then distant state of Ohio in which to find a new habitation for his family. Events favored him. He had been appointed as one of the commissioners to mark out the boundaries of the Western Reserve of Ohio, and while in this "Far West" territory he purchased a large tract (from that time known as Shaler valley) near Ravenna, Ohio. To that town the family removed, and in Ravenna young Shaler completed his legal studies. About the year 1815, Charles, who had previously visited Pittsburgh, made his permanent residence in that city. Within a few months he was admitted to practice law at the Allegheny county Bar. Being a young man of engaging personality, good character and ready at public speaking, he soon became well known and secured the friendship of leading citizens of the place. In the year 1818 he was appointed Recorder in the Mayor's Court, an office of a good deal of importance in those early days, and held that position until he resigned June 13, 1824, having a few days before that date been commissioned as a judge of the Common Pleas Courts of Allegheny county. He continued on the bench until 1835 and then resigned, resuming the practice of law. He soon stood at the forefront of the legal profession in his community and was making a name as an

attorney that was extending throughout the State. On May 6, 1841, he was appointed associate law judge of the District Court of Allegheny, but resigned that position May 10, 1844. Nearly ten years later he was appointed in the year 1853, by President Pierce, United States District Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania. A few years later he was again back to the practice of law, having then widespread repute as an able jurist and lawyer and eloquent public speaker. An interesting episode in the professional life of Judge Shaler is that in 1846 he formed in Pittsburgh a law partnership with Edwin M. Stanton, later the celebrated Secretary of War under Lincoln. Mr. Stanton and Brother Shaler had long been intimate friends, and their partnership continued until Mr. Stanton removed to Washington, D. C. in 1853. Judge Shaler was not only a very able and cultured man, but he had great oratorical ability. His eloquence brought him in demand as a public speaker and there were few occasions in Pittsburgh when public addresses were to be made in his day that his eloquent voice was not heard.

When Judge Shaler became in 1850 a member of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society he was one of the leading citizens of Pittsburgh. But his Masonic career had begun long before this period, and as a Mason he was also known throughout the Commonwealth. He was elected to the Board of Trustees at a special meeting held by the stockholders of the Masonic Fund Society held July 23, 1850, to fill two vacancies on the Board, caused by the death of Brother George W. Layng and the resignation of Brother William Noble. Work on the new Masonic Hall on Fifth street was then in progress, and the help of a man like Judge Shaler was most welcome to the trustees and the Craft in general. The first meeting of the Board attended by Brother Shaler was held August 8, 1850, and it was held in the store room of Brother James Shidle, one of the trustees, on Smithfield street. In those days the trustees of the Masonic Fund Society frequently met in the offices or business places of their respective associates. At this period Judge Shaler was not on the bench and was able to give a good deal of time to the promotion of Masonic in-

terests in Pittsburgh. He was, as the minutes show, constantly active in the affairs of the Society, and was for years, whether he was a member of the Board or not, their chief legal adviser. But professional business kept interfering with his Masonic activities, with the result that he was unable to continue regularly as a member of the Board of Trustees. His elections as trustee were intermittent. He was re-elected for the year 1851, the year in which the new Hall was dedicated. He served also through 1852, but was not on the Board during 1853. He was however elected for the years 1854, 1856 and 1857. The whole period therefore of his service on the Board of Trustees totalled five years and a half.

Judge Shaler began his Masonic life in old Ohio lodge, No. 113, in Pittsburgh. This lodge was warranted in the year 1809, but it was not known when he became connected with it. On June 24, 1818, he was admitted as a member into Lodge 45. At that period there were not many Masons in Pittsburgh and but few Masonic Bodies. A Mason of Judge Shaler's ability and energy would naturally soon become a leader in his lodge, and so we find that by the year 1819 he was Senior Warden of Lodge 45 and in January, 1822, was elected Worshipful Master, and served that and the succeeding year. We have mentioned that he early made a reputation as an eloquent speaker, and his Masonic brethren did not permit him to hide his talents. We find, for instance, in the minutes of Lodge 45 of a meeting held Tuesday, June 24, 1823, St. John's Day, the following:

> The members of the lodge convened at the lodge room in conjunction with the members of Lodges Nos. 113 and 165, and formed in procession with and under the direction of the R. A. Chapter. The procession proceeded to the First Presbyterian Church, where a prayer was offered up to Almighty God by the Revd. Mr. Campbell, and an oration on Masonry was delivered by Br. Charles Shaler, our W. M., when a prayer & thanks to God being again offered by the Rev. Mr. Campbell, the procession returned to the Lodge room.

Late in the year 1848 Judge Shaler withdrew from Lodge 45 and became a charter member of Franklin Lodge, No. 221, which was constituted October 15, 1846. Busy with professional and Masonic affairs, he never became an officer in Franklin lodge, and two years later, December 21,

1848, he withdrew from lodge, No. 221, and became again a member of Lodge 45. In that Body he was for the second time chosen W. M., serving through the year 1852, during which year he was also a member of the Board of Trustees. With the close of the year 1852 came the end of his work as an officer in any Masonic Body, for in the year 1853 he was appointed U. S. District Attorney for Western Pennsylvania. But to the end of his long life his deep interest in the welfare of the Craft never waned.

Judge Shaler was a member of the old Royal Arch Chapter, No. 113, as his name is listed among the membership of that body in the minutes of the proceedings of the Grand Chapter, dated November 15, 1824. His Masonic labors as D. D. Grand Master of the old Fifth district add splendor to his career as a brother of the Craft. He was first appointed in December, 1825, the district being then of enormous extent, embracing the counties of Allegheny, Westmoreland, Fayette,Greene,Washington, Butler, Beaver, Armstrong, Jefferson and Indiana. Judge Shaler's incumbency of the office of District Deputy extended through the most trying times of Masonry in Pennsylvania, and indeed throughout the whole country. The waves of antimasonry were spreading from end of the land to the other, having begun in 1826. The storm waged with fury until the end of the year 1837. Brother Shaler served as deputy by reappointment through the years 1826-27-28, and the fact that he was during these troublous years a judge of the courts of Allegheny county is evidence not only of the high prestige Masonry had already attained, but is also a splendid evidence of his courage and devotion to the Order. The pressure of professional duties compelled him to refuse reappointment as deputy for the year 1828. But later, in the year 1832, while still on the bench, and in the very midst of the wicked war against the Craft, he deliberately again accepted the office of District Deputy and served through the years 1833-34. He was a magnificent Masonic warrior, whom no foe could frighten and no persecution halt. When during the years 1835-36-37 nearly all the lodges in his great Fifth district had gone down under the onslaughts of the enemies of the Craft, and the Grand Master had ceased

to appoint a District Deputy because there were no lodges for him to attend to, Judge Shaler with a courage and devotion that rise to the heights of grandeur continued to act, without formal appointment, as deputy in the face of the bitterest and most malignant bigotry and persecution, and when in all of the wide extent of Allegheny county there remained alive but one lodge, old 45, to greet him. At last at the end of 1837 when the storm had greatly calmed down Judge Shaler relinquished the office of District Deputy and Brother John Birmingham was named to succeed him. Brother Shaler was one of the shining marks at which the shafts of bigotry were aimed during the antimasonry furore. In 1836 he with Brother George Wolf, former Governor of Pennsylvania, were summoned by subpoena to appear before the antimasonry committee of the Pennsylvania legislature. Brother Shaler, however, never appeared before that body, which held its sessions at Harrisburg, Pa.

It is pleasing to turn from that period of enmity and hate, to the clear days just prior to the antimasonry outbreak—to the year 1826, when Brother Shaler was serving his first year as District Deputy Grand Master. Brother David Nathans was then Grand Lecturer sent out by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. In 1826 he made an extended tour among the lodges throughout the Pennsylvania jurisdiction and he has left, among the Grand Lodge records, an interesting account of the Craft in Allegheny county:

> Lodges Nos. 45 and 165, Pittsburgh; No. 173 at Lawrenceville, near Pittsburg, 1826, June 30 and July 24. These lodges are in a thriving and flourishing condition, and the lecturer has had much reason to be gratified with the attention that was paid to his instructions delivered and repeated in the course of seventeen meetings, summoned for the purpose of receiving his official visits. Zeal and attention to Masonic duties preeminently characterize the Masons of Pittsburgh and vicinity.

Many are the interesting episodes that might be related connected with the career of Judge Shaler, but one or two must suffice. When Brother General Lafayette came in 1825 from France to make his memorable visit to the United States, Pittsburgh was one of the places at which

he was a guest. Brother Lafayette had a splendid reception and the chief address of the day was delivered by Brother Shaler. In a book descriptive of that journey through the United States, written by Lafayette's secretary, Auguste Levasseur, that writer says: "I cannot, however, quit Pittsburgh without paying my tribute to the eloquence of Mr. Charles Shaler, who addressed General Lafayette in the name of the citizens."

A few of the public addresses of Judge Shaler are extant, and one of the most interesting and eloquent is the address made at a great gathering of Masons at Washington, Pa., on St. John's Day, June 24, 1869. Another fine example of his eloquence is the beautiful and touching address delivered by the grave of Brother Samuel McKinley, when that devoted Mason was laid to his rest on August 25, 1854. Brother Shaler's long, useful and notable life extended over a period of 81 years, and ended in a peaceful death in Newark, N. J., March 5, 1869, at the home of his son-in-law, the Rev. Dr. Hodges. For several years before his demise Brother Shaler had become totally blind, and yet under the pall of that great affliction he kept at his profession of the law and even argued cases in court when he could no longer see. At the time of his death he was on a visit to Rev. Hodges. As he had directed, his body was brought to Pittsburgh for burial. Upon the news of his death a Convocation of the brethren was called at Pittsburgh by D. D. Grand Master Pollock. It was held March 8, 1869, in Freemasons Hall, and the place was filled to overflowing. The funeral took place on that date, the services being held in Trinity Episcopal Church, of which Brother Shaler was a member, the interment being in the Allegheny cemetery.

Brother Charles Shaler lived a conspicuous, useful and good life. He was generous, sincere and a man of honor and probity. He was a true brother and upholder of Masonry, and as a jurist and attorney added lustre to the name of his city. He has been described as a "tall man, and had a grace and a personality which commanded the attention and respect of all with whom he came in contact."

WILLIAM J. DAVITT

Brother William J. Davitt was a well known and respected citizen of Pittsburgh, and at the time of his election to the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society was engaged in the business of merchant tailor at No. 48 Liberty avenue, then known as a "street." He was elected trustee December 27, 1849, and served only through the following year. He was originally a member of Lodge 45, having been made Freemason in that body September 12, 1845. Later he withdrew from that lodge and became a charter member of St. John's Lodge, No. 219, constituted in 1846. At the first regular meeting of that Body he was unanimously chosen secretary and served until the close of the year 1848. On December 14, 1848, he was elected S. W. of St. John's Lodge, the smallness of the membership in those days frequently resulted in choosing brethren from the floor to fill elective offices. At the lodge election December 13, 1849, he was defeated for the office of W. M. by Brother Alexander Tindle; and in February, 1850, with Brother John C. Cole, who in that year was chosen a member of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society, withdrew from St. John's Lodge, No. 219.

When Brother George M. Dallas, then Vice President of the United States, and a P. G. M. of Pennsylvania Masons, visited Pittsburgh in 1847, a Convocation of the brethren of Lodges Nos. 45, 219 and 221 was held to receive him. On the committee to receive the Vice President personally Brother Davitt was appointed from St. John's Lodge. Brother Davitt died at his home in Pittsburgh in August, 1851.

JOHN BIRMINGHAM

Brother Captain John Birmingham, who was a trustee of the Masonic Fund Society during the years 1856 and 1857, was when he died, April 19, 1886, at his home in Bellevue, a suburb of Pittsburgh, one of the Masonic patri-

archs of Western Pennsylvania. His life had extended over a period of 83 years, and his Masonic career, active and useful to the end, reached the long limit of 58 years. The minutes of the meetings of the Board of Trustees show that he was sedulous in the then somewhat burdensome work of causing sufficient funds to materialize when they were needed.

Captain Birmingham was born in Ireland in 1805 and in 1809 the family came to America. In his early manhood he got started as a drug clerk; but being an aspiring youth, and somewhat adventurous, he dropped pill making and got a job as boatman on the Ohio river. That was long before the railroads were known in Western Pennsylvania, and the young man, seeing the value of river commerce, began to accumulate funds and to do river trading on his own hook. Within a few years he owned one of the finest packet boats running between Pittsburgh and Cincinnati. When finally the railroads lessened the river commerce, Captain Birmingham quit the business, having amassed a comfortable fortune. When he retired from active service on the rivers, he took much interest in civic and business affairs in Pittsburgh. He filled the office of Prothonotary of Allegheny county and later was warden of the Western penitentiary. He was president of the Pittsburgh Bank of Savings until the wind-up of its affairs, was manager of the Morganza Reformatory, and was connected with various financial concerns.

His long Masonic career was interesting and he was very helpful to the Order in its early days in the western part of Pennsylvania. He was made a Mason and was secretary in the old Ohio Lodge, No. 113, which went out of existence in 1837. On August 23, 1830, he was admitted into Lodge 45 and was its W. M. during the year 1833. He served with signal success as D. D. Grand Master during eight years, being first appointed by R. W. Grand Master John M. Read September 4, 1837. His experience as District Deputy extended through the last years of the Masonic persecution. He succeeded Brother Charles Shaler, and we get an insight of the condition of the Craft in Pittsburgh

at the time, from the following record of the Grand Lodge communication held September, 1837:

A letter was received and read from Brother James Paul on behalf of Lodges Nos. 45 and 113, held at Pittsburgh, asking that their dues be remitted; also containing the proceedings of Joint Meeting of those two Lodges held in Pittsburg the 30th June last, wherein Bro. John Birmingham, a past master and member of Lodge 45, was unanimously recommended for the office of D. D. Grand Master for that District.

Yet two years later the Order was being revived in a splendid manner throughout the jurisdiction and the Grand Master was able to say, with much jubilation, in 1838, that "from the observations made by the Grand Secretary the Order is flourishing the present year to an extent, he believes, unparalleled in the annals of Masonry."

Brother Birmingham's connection with Capitular Masonry is interesting. He was admitted as a member of Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162, at its formation February 8, 1847, but he had long before joined the old Chapter No. 113 held in Pittsburgh. It had been constituted in the year 1826 and as the records show, it met in the year 1826 with other Masonic Bodies, in the loft of a warehouse on Water street, near Ferry street, Pittsburgh. This chapter became extinct about the year 1836, and in 1840 Brother Birmingham and some other members of the old Body made an unsuccessful effort to revive it.

ALEXANDER TINDLE, 32°

When Brother Alexander Tindle died December 26, 1889, the Masons of Western Pennsylvania lost a truly venerable patriarch. He had reached the great age of eighty-one years and his Masonic career had covered a period of sixty-one years. He served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society during the years 1853 and 1855, being then prominent as a member of the Craft and greatly esteemed as a business man. He was born in Wilmington, Del., October 2, 1808, and came

with his parents to Pittsburgh in 1811. His father took part in the war of 1812 and was killed in one of the battles. The son was apprenticed as a saddler and later set up business for himself, becoming a wholesale and retail dealer in harness and other leather goods. In 1837 he conducted the business, as his advertisements in the old newspapers show, "in McMaster's Row in Liberty street." He was made a Mason by dispensation in old Milnor Lodge, No. 165, in 1828, at the age of 20 years. This lodge, unable to withstand the antimasonic storm, went out of existence in 1837.

Early in 1845 Brother Tindle and other Masons were successful in securing a charter for the institution of the new Milnor Lodge, but, as has been detailed elsewhere, in this volume, the warrant was burned up in the fire which destroyed the Masonic Hall in April, 1845. The lodge, however, came into existence in 1854. In the meantime, Brother Tindle, with Brothers James Shidle, George W. Layng, Richard Cowan and other well known Masons, applied for a warrant for another lodge, that of St. John's, No. 219, which was constituted April 8, 1846, with Brother Tindle as a charter member. He was the second W. M. of that lodge, serving through the years 1847 and 1848, and again serving as W. M. during 1850-51-52 inclusive.

In 1853 he withdrew from St. John's Lodge, No. 219, to aid in the reestablishment of the new Milnor Lodge. In this connection an interesting bit of history has been contributed by Brother P. M. David C. Kammerer, of Milnor Lodge, No. 287, as follows:

In the year 1853 the Hon. Wilson McCandless being feeble, desired to go to Cuba for the benefit of his health, and he wished to become a Mason before he left Pittsburgh. A dispensation was secured to confer all the three degrees at one time. A number of the Masonic brethren then met one afternoon, with Brother Tindle as W. M., Brother Herdman as S. W., and Brother English as J. W., and myself as master of ceremonies, when we entered, passed and raised Brother McCandless to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. After his return from Cuba, and still not belonging to any lodge, he wished to affiliate with one. At that time Brother Herdman had a leather goods store five or six doors below Fifth street on Wood street. The room was about twelve feet wide, by 40 long, containing a small counter and rolls of sole leather. We met in this room in the evenings to discuss matters pro and con. One evening

Brother McCandless stated that his father had been W. M. of the defunct Milnor Lodge, and that started the idea of procuring a new charter to resuscitate Milnor Lodge. We had a selfish feeling in wanting to get the old number of Milnor lodge back, as that would place us next to Lodge 45. But the positive rule of Grand Lodge was that any lodge losing its charter, the number should become obsolete. We were content to accept the present number, 287.

Thus Milnor Lodge, No. 287, was constituted April 18, 1854, with Brother Tindle as its first Worshipful Master, and he served through that first year. He remained in Milnor Lodge throughout the remainder of his life. On April 4, 1848, he joined Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162, and was H. P. in 1851.

In the early days of the Scottish Rite in the Valley of Pittsburgh, established in 1852, Brother Tindle was one of its main supporters.

Brother Tindle to the end of his long life continued to be earnestly interested in Masonic affairs. In the recital of the semi-centennial anniversary celebration, April 29, 1904, of Milnor Lodge, No. 287, is this tribute to this aged brother:

He was a leader among the Milnor brethren who organized St. John's Lodge, No. 219, and for five years served as W. M. of that lodge; and then again headed the men who brought the second Milnor into existence. His was the hard duty of guiding the new lodge through the first year of its existence. Well he laid the foundation stone. When he retired from office he lost none of his interest in the lodge, but up to his death in 1889, a period of 35 years, none was more constant in attendance or more zealous in his labors.

ALEXANDER McC. POLLOCK, 33°

For thirty-seven consecutive years Brother Alexander McC. Pollock was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Fund Society, having been elected December 27, 1854, and remaining on the Board until the day of his death which occurred June 20, 1892. No matter what changes in the membership of the Board the stockholders thought fit to make at their annual election through that

long period, there never seemed to be a question as to whether Brother Pollock was to remain or not. He was always regularly re-elected. He and Brother James Herdman were chosen trustees at the same meeting of the stockholders. One month after he became a trustee he was made secretary of the Board, and, with the exception of two years, held that office through the remainder of his life. His was a remarkable record, not only in years, but also in service. Only when in the latter days of his life his health began to fail, did he allow anything to prevent the closest and most admirable attention to his duties as trustee. He was an efficient secretary and his work on the Board was always of the greatest benefit. Most assuredly then, was the tribute of his fellow trustees merited, a tribute embodied in the resolutions adopted by the Board at the time of his death. They were read, as follows at a meeting held July 5, 1892:

Died, June 20, 1892.—It having pleased an all-wise Providence to call from labor our friend and brother, Dr. A. M. Pollock, who served as Trustee of this Society continuously from January, 1855, to June 20, 1892;

Resolved, That we recall his patient and unassuming efforts as Trustee. We remember his untiring fidelity to the many trusts imposed upon him by the Masonic fraternity. We bear grateful witness to the judgment and courtesy with which he discharged his duties, and to the conscientious fidelity with which for more than thirty years he has watched over the interests committed to his care, as an officer of the Masonic Fund Society of Allegheny county.

Resolved, that as a small appreciation of his worth and work, and as an expression of sorrow for our loss, we offer the above, and direct that the resolutions be spread in full upon the minutes.

Brother Doctor Pollock was born in Pittsburgh January 7, 1820, and received his degree of M. D. in the Cincinnati Medical College in 1840. An appreciative and interesting sketch of the life of this estimable Mason has been written by our late Ill. Bro. George W. Guthrie, 33°, from which the following is taken:

Returning from Cincinnati to his native city, Brother Pollock immediately devoted himself to his profession and from that time until stricken down by death he ministered to the sick and suffering, with much learning, skill and tenderness as earned for him their undying gratitude and affection. His essays on professional subjects are historical in surgery and medicine. He was at different times president of the Medical Society of Pennsylvania, vice President of the American Medical Association and delegate to the International Medical Congress in 1876. He had no love for political life, but con-

sented to represent his ward in the Select Council of the City of Pittsburgh. On July 10, 1855, he was elected a member of the Board of Trustees of the Dollar Savings bank and on January 17, 1859, he was chosen vice president of that institution, a position he held as long as he lived. The following memorial was adopted by the Board of Directors of the Bank at the time of his death:

"Loyal to his God and country, faithful and capable in the discharge of every duty, for which he was called, loving to his family, true to his friends and charitable to all. From the time of his election as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Bank until overtaken by the disease from which he died, (a disease caused by injuries received in the discharge of his professional duties), Dr. Pollock was active and served almost continuously as one of the committee. His life both public and private, was worthy of admiration and imitation."

He was initiated in Lodge 45 in Pittsburgh on June 24, 1846, and was raised September 11 of the same year. He served at different times as treasurer, junior warden and master of his lodge. As D. D. Grand Master for Allegheny county, having been appointed at the beginning of the year 1861 and serving until the end of 1877, he made a record for energetic and effective action that is worthy of emulation.

In his address to the Grand Lodge at the Grand Communication, December, 1865, R. W. Grand Master Lucius H. Scott said, describing a visitation in July of that year to Pittsburgh:

We spent the Sabbath at Altoona, and left on Monday for Pittsburgh. On our arrival at the railroad station we were met by Brother Herdman and other brethren, with carriages to convey us to our lodgings. In Pittsburgh proper there are six lodges, in Allegheny City three, and in Birmingham one, making in the aggregate, ten lodges. They have a noble Masonic Hall in which all the lodges congregate. They are all under the direction of D. D. Grand Master Brother Doctor Pollock, and from all we saw of their work and general Masonic conduct, they would compare favorably with any the lodges in the jurisdiction.

Brother Pollock became a member of Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162, January 16, 1849, and was High Priest in 1854 and in 1855 was appointed D. D. Grand Master for the counties of Allegheny, Beaver, Lawrence, Armstrong, Fayette and Washington. He was knighted in Pittsburgh Commandery, No. 1, K. T., August 9, 1867. He received the degrees of the A. A. S. Rite and on May 18, 1865, was honored with the honorary grade of Sovereign Grand Inspector General by the Supreme Council. He was one of those named in the dispensations authorizing the opening of a Chapter of Rose Croix and a Consistory of Sovereign Princes of the Royal Secret in Pittsburgh and was a charter member of Rose Croix and Pennsylvania Sovereign Consistory. He was

at different dates Sen. Gr. Warden H. of Tyre; D. Gr. Master and T. P.; Gr. Master of Gourgas Lodge of Perfection, and G. H. P., D. G. M. and M. E. S: P: Gr: Master of Pennsylvania Council Princes of Jerusalem.

GETER CROSBY SHIDLE, 33°

Geter Crosby Shidle, 33°, the son of Brother James Shidle, was elected a member of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society at a meeting of the stockholders held December 27, 1882, and was thereafter regularly re-elected to the end of his life in 1889. He thus succeeded his father, James Shidle, as one of the seven trustees and was at this time engaged in the business of wall paper manufacturer and dealer, a business which the elder Shidle had established many years before. At the time of election to the Board of Trustees Brother Geter C. Shidle was a director in the Dollar Savings Bank of Pittsburgh and was connected with other financial institutions.

He was born in Pittsburgh September 14, 1831, and at an early age became associated with his father in business. In a sketch of his life, published at the time of his death, the Pittsburgh "Post" of date of June 12, 1889, said:

> Geter Shidle is dead. The telegram which bore the sad news from Atlantic City yesterday brought sorrow to many hearts, for it announced that a long and useful life had ended. This announcement, however, was not entirely unexpected, for Mr. Shidle had been ailing for weeks past. Death resulted from a general breaking down in health. Mr. Shidle was hard, active and earnest worker and was known among business men for his uprightness and strict integrity. He was identified with a number of business concerns. He helped organize the Masonic bank in 1870 and had been its president since 1886. He was also a director in the Dollar Savings bank and the Union Insurance Company. The deceased was one term in the Pennsylvania legislature.

Conspicuous and successful as was Brother Shidle's civic and business career, his zeal and activity as a member of the Masonic Order brought him even more prominence. Endowed with those engaging qualities which create and

hold confidences and sincere friendships, he found in Masonry the principles and teachings which fitted so well into his own sterling character. He was indeed a true exemplar of Masonry whether in the lodge or in the world outside. His Masonic life began in Milnor Lodge, No. 287, having been raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on August 31, 1854, a few months after that lodge was constituted. In 1863 he was elected W. M. of the lodge, and in 1864 was chosen secretary, an office which he filled continuously until 1888. December 27, 1880, he was appointed D. D. Grand Master and held that office until the close of the year 1888. He was therefore District Deputy at the time of the destruction of the Masonic Hall on Fifth avenue, August 12, 1887. As District Deputy, Brother Shidle took a leading part in the imposing ceremonies with which the corner stone of the Freemasons Hall was laid on September 11, 1888. But he did not live to witness the dedication of the structure, his death taking place only two weeks prior to that event. It is, however, a satisfaction to know that it was in this new hall that this illustrious Mason performed his last Masonic ritualistic work. Lodge 45 had been given permission to hold a meeting in the new structure before the dedication. This session was held on Wednesday evening, April 3, 1889, and was of unusual interest. There was a regular program of speeches and music and the three degrees were conferred. The Second Degree was conferred by D. D. Grand Master Shidle, and it is recalled today by some of those who were present at that memorable gathering that later in the evening when Brother Shidle was called upon to speak, he expressed his regret that he had while conferring the second degree inadvertently supplied a word which is not in the ritual. Probably not one of the 284 brothers present had noticed the small error. But it was characteristic of the fairness and honesty which governed his mind as well as his heart that he could not permit those fellow Masons to believe that he had done perfect work, when he had not, even though the fault were of no significance. That was the last work done in a lodge by this illustrious brother, whose memory will long be cherished by Pennsylvania Masons.

For some weeks prior to his death his health began to fail seriously, and he went to Atlantic City with the hope of restoration, or at least some improvement. But he gradually grew weaker and on June 11, 1889, he died in that city, with his sorrowing family at his bedside. The body was brought to Pittsburgh for burial, which took place June 14 in the Allegheny Cemetery. Masonic services were performed at the grave by Milnor Lodge, No. 287, of which the deceased was a member. The funeral cortege was very large, and the pall bearers, all intimate friends and Masonic brethren of Brother Shidle were: Brothers Joseph Eichbaum, of St. John's Lodge, No. 287, and the then R. W. Grand Master of the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania; Lee S. Smith, of Franklin Lodge, No. 221; Charles C. Baer, of Milnor Lodge, No. 287 and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society; J. Lilond Lytle, of St. John's Lodge, No. 219; William B. Lupton, of Milnor Lodge, No. 287 and a member of the Board of Trustees, and Stephen C. McCandless, of Milnor Lodge No. 287 and also a member of the Board of Trustees.

It has been well said that the Masonic offices to which Brother Geter C. Shidle was called during his Masonic career were almost without number. The following is a summary of his Masonic affiliations:

Made a Mason in Milnor Lodge, No. 287, August 31, 1854, being the first candidate raised to the third degree in that Body. Royal Arch Mason in Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162, July 17, 1859; Mount Moriah Council, December 15, 1860; knighted in Pittsburgh Commandery, No. 1, May 13, 1862; Scottish Rite degrees up to the 32° in the Pennsylvania Consistory in 1866, and was created a Sovereign Grand Inspector General, 33°, at New York, September 18, 1875, and was made an active 33°, at Boston September 19, 1882. The various offices he held were: W. M. of Milnor Lodge, No. 287 in 1864; High Priest of Zerubbabel Chapter in 1864; E. C. of Pittsburgh Commandery No. 1 in 1867; T. P. G. M. of Mount Moriah Council in 1866; D. D. Grand High Priest from 1871 to 1882; R. E. Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania in 1872; M.P. Grand Master of the Grand Council of Pennsylvania in 1877; G. W. of the Grand Encampment of the United States in 1878; D. D. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania from the beginning of the year 1880 until his death. In the Consistory he was M. W. and Past Master of the Chapter of Rose Croix from 1871 to 1879.

The death of this eminent brother called forth eulogies

from many sources. A few of them can here be mentioned. Brother Clifford P. McCalla, then R. W. Grand Master of Pennsylvania Masons, in an address at the Grand Communication held December, 1889, said:

Brother Geter C. Shidle served with universal acceptability as District Deputy Grand Master for Allegheny county from 1880 until the period of his death. Brother Shidle in his life and character assembled a rare combination of virtues and abilities. He was genial, unselfish, modest, untiring in labor, perfectly skilled in the work and also in Masonic law. Every Freemason was his friend, every lodge was his home. His presence was a benediction. Long will the memory of his cheerful greeting, his cordial hand-clasp, his feeling words and his Masonic wisdom be treasured not only by the brethren of Pittsburgh, but by very many throughout this entire Jurisdiction.

Referring to Brother Shidle's value to the Order, Ill. Companion James S. Barber, M. E. Grand High Priest, H. R. A. Chapter of Pennsylvania, said:

It would be impossible for me to fully set forth the irreparable loss the Masonic fraternity of this jurisdiction, and especially of Pittsburgh and vicinity, have sustained in the death of Comp. Shidle. He was D. D. Grand High Priest from 1872 to 1882, inclusive. He was a complete master of the Masonic ritual in every degree and fully qualified to perform every duty that could be required of him.

As Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania Brother Shidle had been conspicuous for his ability and his services, and in a Memoriam expressive of their regard for him that Body paid the following tribute:

In the death of Sir Shidle the Order loses one of its brightest stars. Few persons have ever served the Craft so long and faithfully, and yet he never showed any signs of flagging in his zeal. He never seemed to tire or weary in the work, and when a request was made for this service he never said no, if it were possible for him to comply.

In the large and elegant Reception room of the Scottish Rite Bodies in the present Masonic Temple at Pittsburgh stands a statue, of pure parian marble, of this eminent and revered brother Mason. This fine work of art, which first adorned the Reception room in Freemasons Hall on Fifth avenue, Pittsburgh, is a tribute to the worth and services of Brother Shidle by the Masons of Western Pennsylvania. Soon after his death it was decided by the

brethren to provide a memorial in the shape of a statue, which should be paid for by voluntary subscriptions. A large sum was raised and a Memorial Commission appointed, consisting of Brothers Joseph Eichbaum, chairman; Lee S. Smith, secretary; William B. Lupton, Charles C. Baer, Charles S. McKean, Thomas J. Hudson and Charles W. Batcheler. A cast for the statue was made in Cleveland, Ohio, and the work of carving the figure was executed in Italy, the material being parian marble. The pedestal was the gift of Milnor Lodge, No. 287, being formally presented by the lodge to the Memorial Commission. The statue and pedestal were then, with fitting ceremonies, presented to the Masonic Fund Society by the late Brother James W. Brown, 33°, at that time D. D. Grand Master and later R. W. Grand Master. The gift was received on behalf of the Masonic Fund Society by Brother Charles C. Baer, then President of the Board of Trustees. At this ceremony the statue was unveiled by Brothers Joseph Eichbaum and Lee S. Smith.

Brother Shidle's memory is further signally perpetuated in the name of Geter C. Shidle Lodge, No. 650, constituted February 16, 1907, at Pittsburgh by the late Brother G. W. Guthrie, 33°, at that time R. W. Senior Grand Warden, he having been empowered to organize the lodge by dispensation granted by R. W. Grand Master George W. Kendrick.

ALEXANDER G. REINHART

In the summer of 1854 the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society lost by death two esteemed and useful members. One was brother Samuel McKinley, always to be remembered as a conspicuous and untiring worker for Masonry. The other was Brother Alexander G. Reinhart, less prominent, but an efficient and devoted member of the Craft and a man of many friends and of much popularity. The death of these brethren were caused by accidents. Bro-

ther McKinley, as has been related elsewhere, was instantly killed in a railroad accident near Altoona, Pa. Brother Reinhart died from the effects of an accident in Pittsburgh. While driving along a street he was thrown from his buggy and sustained injuries that caused his death a few days later, at the age of 44 years.

He took his seat as a member of the Board of Trustees January 3, 1853, and at this meeting was chosen secretary of the Board, a position he was filling at the date of his death. The minutes which he has left on record are notable for their precision and importance, and show that he was a regular attendant at the sessions of the trustees. He was at that time an alderman of the Fourth ward, Pittsburgh, and was doing much business as a scrivner. His office was at No. 45 St. Clair street, now Federal street.

Brother Reinhart was one of the earliest members of St. John's Lodge, No. 219, and was its W. M. during the year 1849. February 16, 1847, he became a member of Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162, of which he was secretary that year and Scribe in 1852. He went no higher as an officer in that Body. Highly esteemed as a citizen and as a Mason, his death was mourned by a wide circle of friends. Making note of his death, the Pittsburgh "Post" of date of June 7, 1854, says:

> We were pained to learn last evening that A. G. Reinhart, Esq., an alderman of the Fourth ward, had died suddenly in consequence of injuries sustained by being thrown out of a buggy. He was about and attending to business for some days after he was injured, not considering the injury serious. We have known Esquire Reinhart for several years and esteemed him highly, as an excellent business man and public officer; a good and valuable citizen, and a steadfast and warm-hearted friend. Such, we are sure, will be the testimony of all who enjoyed his acquaintance. He leaves a much respected family and a large circle of friends to mourn his sudden demise.

At their meeting, October 4, 1854, the Board of Trustees adopted memorial resolutions, the introduction to which reads as follows: "Agreeably to the request of the Board of Trustees, the secretary hereby performs the sad duty of recording the deaths of our beloved brethren and fellow trustees, A. G. Reinhart and Samuel McKinley." Of Brother Reinhart the resolutions say:

Brother Reinhart died in the meridian of life, in the vigor and stirring activities of manhood. As a man he was intelligent and zealous; as a citizen, respected and elevated to the responsible and honorable office of alderman; as a husband, father and friend, beloved by all thus related to him. He was cut down suddenly, and we fondly believe that his spirit is now in the peaceful and glorious realms of our Grand Master Eternal in the Heavens.

FERDINAND E. VOLTZ

As a member of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society Brother Ferdinand E. Voltz served a little over four months. He was elected at a stockholders meeting held December 27, 1876, and attended the first session of the Board in the following January, and, as the minutes of the Board's meeting show, was taking a deep interest in the affairs of the Society. But his useful life was cut short by sudden death on May 14, 1876, when he had reached the age of 53 years. He had long been associated with the civic and political life of Pittsburgh and had been mayor of the city during the year 1854. Later he had filled the office of Collector of Internal Revenue from 1866 to 1869. At the date of his death he was treasurer of the Allegheny Valley Railroad Company.

Brother Voltz was a member of Franklin Lodge, No. 221, and was its W. M. during the year 1852. He was also a member of Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162. He was very popular among his many acquaintances and was greatly esteemed as an active Mason. The Pittsburgh "Post" paid this tribute at the time of his demise: "He was an upright, honorable gentleman, of large experience and a thorough business man. He had many excellent social qualities which made him hosts of friends and endeared him to them."

WILLIAM NOBLE

For seventeen consecutive years Brother William Noble was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society. However, when the stockholders started to put him the Board it required, at first, a good deal of effort to keep him there. He was first elected a trustee December 27, 1849; but at the next meeting of the trustees he resigned. Then at a special session of the stockholders, May 16, 1850, he was again chosen, but on the 23rd of the following July he again resigned. At that time Brother Noble was engaged in building up his upholstery business, which later he conducted under the firm name of Wm. Noble & Son, and as the Board of Trustees were putting in nearly 24 hours a day in strengthening the Masonic Fund Society and erecting the Hall on Fifth avenue, Pittsburgh, Brother Noble felt that just then he could not give the necessary time to Masonic affairs. Finally at a stockholders meeting, in December, 1856, he was once more elected as a trustee, and he remained continuously on the Board until the close of the year 1875, dying a few months later.

He was a man of high character, much popularity and fine business ability, and during his long incumbency as a trustee was ever active in the work of the Board and eager and effective in promoting the interests of the Order in general.

He was made a Freemason in Lodge 45 December 4, 1847, and joined Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162, April 4, 1847. He was knighted in Pittsburgh Commandery, No. 1, May 10, 1848, and was elected E. M. January 1, 1857. He served as W. M. of Lodge 45 during the years 1854 and 1857. When his first term as W. M. had expired the lodge unanimously adopted the following:

> Resolved, that Lodge 45 return a vote of thanks to Past Master William Noble for his zealous and untiring interest in the affairs of this lodge during the past year, and for the able manner in which he has conducted its affairs.

When the body of Brother Brigadier General Conrad F. Jackson, who was a member of Lodge 45 and who was

killed at the battle of Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862, was brought to Pittsburgh for interment, Brother Noble was one of the committee appointed to arrange for Masonic services at the funeral. In June, 1870, he made the trip to Europe, his appreciative fellow Masons giving him a cheerful send-off.

This much esteemed brother died November 4, 1874, at his home in Pittsburgh, aged 67 years. His funeral was in charge of Lodge 45, and the minutes of that Body of November 4, 1874, give the following particulars:

The R. W. Master stated that the lodge had been called together to make arrangements to attend the funeral of Bro. P. M. Wm. Noble, who died this morning. After an expression of opinion by the members and visiting brethren, it was resolved, that the pall bearers go in carriages and convey the body to St. Mary's Episcopal church, the brethren to form in procession and meet at the Suspension bridge, and proceed to the church. The W. M. then appointed the following pall bearers: Brothers P. M. John Fox, James Herdman, John Davage, James Shidle, P. M. S. B. Cooper, Joseph Eichbaum, George Glass and William Scott.

The funeral, which was largely attended, was held November 5. In the resolutions of condolence adopted by Lodge 45 is this deserved tribute:

That in this dispensation we bow submissively to the will of our Supreme Master. Resolved, that in the death of Bro. P. M. William Noble, Lodge No. 45 has lost one of her oldest members and most zealous supporters; one who was ever ready to practice the noble principles of Freemasonry in the world at large, as well as in the lodge.

WILLIAM B. ENGLISH

When Brother William B. English, still remembered as one of the leading book publishers in Pittsburgh in early days, was elected a Trustee of the Masonic Fund Society, December 30, 1850, the new Masonic Hall on Fifth street, (there were no "avenues" in those days), was being completed, and the Board of Trustees were needing money. The purchase of the ground and the erection of the building was a big undertaking for the comparatively small Masonic

Fraternity in Pittsburgh at that period. Judge Charles Shaler was a member of the Board at the time, and in December, 1851, he and Brother English were designated as a committee to obtain a loan for the Board to the amount of $5,000. The loan was later secured, and the money, with the various amounts advanced from time to time by Brother James W. Hailman, who being a Trustee, had become the financier of the Board, put the Masonic Fund Society on a safe foundation. Brother English was made the chairman of the First Relief Committee appointed by the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society, December 29, 1851. The other members were Judge Charles Shaler and James Shidle. They have, as is the Masonic custom, left no records of their charitable work, but here and there in the minutes of the Board of Trustees are intimations of material aid being given to the needy.

Brother English served three years on the Board of Trustees, during 1851-52-53. He was a member of Franklin Lodge, No. 221. At the first stated meeting of this lodge, October 15, 1846, he was chosen temporary secretary, and at the same meeting was elected treasurer of that Body, serving that office during 1846-47 and 1852 and 1853. He was a charter member of Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162, at the meeting at which it was constituted, December 14, 1846, was chosen treasurer and served through the following year. He was a highly respected citizen and was prominent in business and church circles. He was a member of the publishing firm of A. H. English & Co., who printed and issued numerous standard school books of that period. He died September 16, 1865, and was buried two days later from his home at No. 147 Penn avenue, Pittsburgh.

ALEXANDER SPEER

Brother Alexander Speer was for many years prominent in manufacturing and commercial circles in Pittsburgh. He served but one year on the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society, being elected December 27, 1851, and

continuing on the Board through 1852. He could not, on account of his business affairs, give sufficient time to the work of the Board of Trustees. He was at the time in the firm of Hall & Speer, they having on Duquesne Way in Pittsburgh one of the largest plow manufacturing plants in the United States.

Brother Speer was born in Allegheny county, Pa., June 25, 1808, his father, Othinel Speer, being a carpenter. At the age of 17 years his son was apprenticed to the trade of wagon and plow making. When he had completed his apprenticeship he started out into the world to make his fortune, his capital at that time being exactly $10. He journeyed down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers and finally located at Nachez Miss., where he worked at his trade for two years. Then he started in as a trader on the rivers, beginning with a sturdy flat boat, and selling tools and implements, mostly of Pittsburgh make. For fifteen years, with, as he used to say, "more downs than ups," he went through this lively experience, those being the days of Mark Twain on the Mississippi. In 1845 he associated himself with Samuel Hall, who had invented a plow, and that was the beginning of Brother Speer's subsequent great success The two men established in Pittsburgh the widely known Globe PlowWorks,where they manufactured plows and other farming implements. In 1852 Mr. Hall died and Brother Speer continued the business alone, under the firm name of Hall & Speer until 1873. During the latter part of his life he was interested in various important concerns. He was president of the Pittsburgh Forge & Iron Co., and for ten years prior to his death was manager of the Allegheny Bridge Co. and a director in the First National bank of Pittsburgh. He was also one of the founders of the Allegheey Telescope Association in 1859, organized for the purpose of purchasing a great telescope and other equipment for the Observatory of the University of Pittsburgh, a great department rendered notable by the late Dr. John A. Brashear.

Brother Speer was not conspicuous in Masonic affairs, but was deeply devoted to the Order. He joined St. John's Lodge, No. 219 in 1850, and in the same year became a

member of Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162, R. A. M., and was knighted in Pittsburgh Commandery, No. 1, February 11, 1851.

At the time of his death, May 10, 1876, he was one of the leading citizens of Pittsburgh and had reached the age of 68 years. One of his intimate friends, writing of him said:

> Alexander Speer was a man we all loved and respected for his geniality and his helpfulness to others. At his office on Penn avenue, at the corner of Cecil alley, a number of the early business men used to meet regularly and discuss matters of interest in the business and social circles of the town. They never had any formal organization, but this coterie of business men came to be known as "The Mutual," and they continued to have great "meetings" until his death. He was a man of splendid physique, tall and commanding, with a strong, handsome face.

CYRUS ORLANDO LOOMIS

No records show that Brother Cyrus Orlando Loomis was particularly prominent in Masonic work, but the fact that he was one of the members of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society indicates that he stood high in the estimation of his brethren and that he took a great interest in the progress of the Craft. He was elected a trustee at a stockholders meeting December 27, 1853, and served through the succeeding year. He was an attorney in Pittsburgh, having been admitted to the Bar there January 2, 1844, and was solicitor for the city of Pittsburgh in 1847-48.

He was a member of Washington Lodge, No. 253, and on February 21, 1853, was knighted in Pittsburgh Commandery, No. 1. He became a member of Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162, November 4, 1851. About 1858 he removed to Coldwater, Michigan. When the Civil war broke out he enlisted and served first as Captain of Battery A, First Regiment of Michigan Light Artillery. He was in numerous battles, was promoted to the rank of Colonel and on June 20, 1865, was brevetted Brigadier General of Volunteers for gallant and meritorious conduct. His health was under-

mined by exposures during the war and he died in Washington, D. C., September 4, 1872.

In January, 1865, Brother Loomis, then still a colonel, paid a visit to Pittsburgh, and while there was the recipient of a fine gift from his friends, as related in the following account taken from the Pittsburgh "Gazette," of date of January 31, 1865:

> Col. C. O. Loomis, a distinguished officer who has earned a national reputation by his gallantry and efficiency in the artillery service, recently spent a brief furlough among his numerous friends in this city, and has returned to the Front to report to General Thomas. So quiet and unassuming have been the movements of the colonel here, that the public generally were not aware of his presence. His old friends, however, paid due attention to him and showed their sincere appreciation of his services by presenting him with a magnificent light artillery sabre, gotten up at an expense of $650. The blade is made of thorough Damascus steel, while the scabbard is of silver, and the hilt engraved as follows: "C. O. Loomis, Colonel First Michigan Light Artillery." The name of the numerous battles in which the colonel has participated are inscribed on the scabbard. It will be remembered that Colonel Loomis was Chief of Artillery under Generals Rosecrans and Thomas at the battles of Stone River, Chicamauga and Nashville, and rendered gallant service.

COL. WILLIAM PHILLIPS, 32°

Brother William Phillips who was when he died in 1874 one of the most prominent citizens of Pittsburgh, had been elected a member of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society at a stockholders' meeting, December 27, 1857, and upon the death of President James W. Hailman was chosen President of the Board on July 17, 1860. He filled that office to the end of his days, serving as a member 17 years and as presiding officer 14 years. He paid great attention to the affairs of the Board and his experience as a man of large business matters made his aid particularly valuable to his fellow trustees. He was never conspicuously active in the Masonic Bodies, but was deeply devoted to the fraternity. He was a member of St. John's Lodge, No. 219, receiving the third degree March 9, 1848, two years after the lodge was constituted. He was also one of the early

members of the Scottish Rite in the Valley of Pittsburgh, having received the degrees in 1856.

As a citizen of Pittsburgh Col. Phillips was a man of prominence and influence. His grand parents had been people of good position in the North of Ireland, and their son, the father of our late brother, was educated for and entered the ministry of the Episcopal church. Later he removed with his wife to America, establishing a home within a few miles of Pittsburgh, where Col. Phillips was born. Early in life he learned the trade of glass making in the establishment of Page & Bakewell in Birmingham, then a suburb of Pittsburgh; and later became a member of the firm of Whitehead, Ihmsen & Phillips, glass manufacturers. A few years later he and his brother engaged in the business for themselves under the firm name of R. B. & W. Phillips. Later he entered the iron business, being associated with James E. Brown, of Kittanning, Pa., and others as owners of a rolling mill. In 1862 he retired from the manufacturing field, and being at that time a director in the Allegheny Valley Railroad Company, was made its president. He engaged later in other extensive railroad developments, and for 20 consecutive years represented the Second ward in the Pittsburgh City Councils. He was a member of various industrial corporations and an incorporator and director of the Iron City National bank, the Freehold bank, the People's Insurance Company, and the Safe Deposit Company, of which he was president at the time of his death. It has been said of him that "he was a genial, whole-souled gentleman, and although plain and outspoken was always careful of the feelings of others; and his uniform good humor, appreciation of a joke and a capital faculty of telling stories, made him a most pleasant companion."

He died April 14, 1874, at his residence, No. 177 Third avenue, Pittsburgh, and the entire city gave evidence of the general sorrow. A proclamation was issued by the Mayor, asking a suspension of business and the tolling of church bells during the funeral, which took place on Thursday, April 16. Resolutions of respect were passed by the various departments of the municipality and by financial, commer-

cial, church and educational organizations. Public buildings were draped in mourning and the body lay in state in Municipal Hall. The interment took place in the Allegheny cemetery and in the long funeral procession were the trustees of the Masonic Fund Society and a large representation of the Masonic Fraternity, under the marshalship of Brother Joseph Eichbaum, later Grand Master of Pennsylvania Masons. The pall bearers from the Masonic Craft, who walked from the house to the cemetery by the side of the hearse, were the following brethren, all intimate friends of Col. Phillips: William Noble, Lodge No. 45; Samuel Harper, St. John's Lodge, No. 219; William G. McCandless, Franklin Lodge, No. 221; George W. Backofen, Solomon Lodge, No. 231; George Glass, Washington Lodge, No. 253; Stephen C. McCandless, Milnor Lodge, No. 287; D. W. C. Carroll, Pittsburgh Lodge, No. 484; Benjamin Darlington, McCandless Lodge, No. 390; Charles C. Baer, Dallas Lodge, No. 508; Alfred Slack, McKinley Lodge, No. 318; William Stewart, Allegheny Lodge, No. 233; and Joseph Lautner, Jefferson Lodge, No. 288. From a newspaper description of the services at the grave the following is taken:

The casket was borne from the hearse by members of the Masonic Order, and carried through the ranks and laid over the grave bars. Rev. Dr. Page proceeded with the impressive burial service of the Protestant Episcopal Church. At the close of this part of the ceremonies the remainder of the service was conducted in accordance with the touching ritual of the Masonic Order. Mr. George T. Oliver officiated as Worshipful Master, and was assisted in the devotional exercises by the Rev. McGuire, of the M. E. Church, and Rev. French, late rector of St. John's. As the Masonic burial services were proceeded with, a lambskin apron, emblem of purity, was put upon the lowered coffin and the sprigs of evergreen were cast into the grave by the members of the Order. Ill. Brother Thomas Davage concluded the Masonic services by the peculiar and impressive ceremony prescribed by the Accepted Scottish Rite Masons, the brethren crossing hands over the grave as they repeated the ritual. This ceremony has been used but three or four times in this city. This scene was exceedingly touching and awed into deeper solemnity all who witnessed the ceremony.

Thus the brethren of our ancient Craft, with unusual ceremonies, laid to rest the remains of a notable citizen and Mason; and the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society voiced the general sentiment of esteem and appreciation of his

work and life, when they said in the resolutions of respect adopted at a meeting held May 6, 1874:

Resolved, That in the death of Col. William Phillips, Masonry has lost one of its most zealous votaries, this Society one of its most intelligent and valued members, and the community one of its ablest, most distinguished and useful citizens.

GEORGE GLASS, 32°

Brother George Glass became a member of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society December 28, 1874, and until his death in 1889, took an earnest and efficient part in the promotion of its interests. He labored zealously in forwarding the work of constructing the new Masonic Hall on Fifth avenue, which was dedicated in the last year of his life. He was a popular and esteemed Mason. During all his life he was in Pittsburgh a baker and conducted for many years an extensive business on Wylie avenue. He was born in Bainbridge, County Down, Ireland, June 24, 1828. His advent into Masonry in Ireland is of particular interest, he having become a Master Mason in accordance with an ancient Masonic procedure in Ireland, at the early age of 19 years. His entry into the Craft has been thus described by one of his Pittsburgh friends:

Although his father was a Freemason and an active member of the fraternity, the son received no encouragement to present himself as a candidate for the mysteries. Yet we find that in February, 1848, he was made a Master Mason in Union Band Lodge, No. 336, at Banbridge, Ireland. He thus received the reward, as was the Masonic custom in his native country, for having performed the duties attached to his birthright. For in Ireland, the son of a Master Mason has a peculiar heritage of duty and privilege. He is Masonically termed a "Lewis," and as such it is his duty to support the sinking powers and failing strength of his father; or, as is expressed in Ireland, "to bear the burden and heat of the day," that his parents may rest in their old age, thus rendering the evening of their lives peaceful and happy. Having performed this duty, it was his privilege "to be made a Mason before any other person, however dignified by birth, rank or riches." His duty was well done, and he was rewarded by being raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason at the age of nineteen years.

Brother Glass came to the United States in 1849, establishing his residence in Pittsburgh, where he learned the trade of baker, and later set up in that business for himself. Becoming a member of Washington Lodge, No. 253 in 1853, he served as W. M. in 1858-59 and again occupied that station in 1864 and 1865. He was treasurer of the Lodge in 1859, and with the exception of the two intervening years, when he was W. M., filled the office of treasurer until his death. He was also for many years one of the trustes of Washington Lodge and its representative in Grand Lodge. November 22, 1860, he was made a Royal Arch Mason in Duquesne Chapter, No. 193, and at once became greatly interested in that branch of Masonry. He filled the station of H. P. in 1866-67; was elected treasurer of his Chapter in 1875 and served in that capacity for the remainder of his life. He was a member of Pittsburgh Commandery, No. 1, whose members always claimed him as "a valiant knight and gentle frater." He received the Orders in their Asylum March 11, 1864, and was chosen E. C. in March, 1870, and elected treasurer in March, 1875, continuing to be the custodian of the funds until his death. He was made a Royal Select Mason in Mt. Moriah Council, No. 2, October 5, 1861; filled the office of D. I. Grand Master in 1881-82 and was T. I. Grand Master in 1885. His connection with the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite dates from the annual reunion in April, 1866. In 1878 the Scottish Rite Bodies selected him as their Grand Hospitallar and Almoner, and he held that important place at the time of his demise. He was a charter member of the Masonic Veterans Association of Western Pennsylvania and its first elected President.

The death of Brother Glass took place on August 18, 1889, at his home in Pittsburgh, and the news was received with real sorrow by all who knew him. In his report read at the meeting of the Pennsylvania Council of Deliberation in Philadelphia, December 3, 1889, Ills. Commander-in-Chief James I. Buchanan said:

> Ills. Brother George Glass had been for many years our Hospitaller; full of gentleness, he "considered" the poor as well as he bestowed our alms upon them. In his quiet, unostentatious way, he filled his calling, and for many days will be missed from the place in

the church which he loved and to which he was devoted; from the Fraternity, which he served and which loved him, and from the city in which he was respected. "'Tis ever wrong to say a good man dies."

The following tribute is from the memorial adopted ae his death by Duquesne Chapter, No. 193:

He has been identified with the Chapter throughout the memory of all living Companions, and this loving memory carries us back to innumerable incidents where his great love for Masonry, his high conception of the objects of the Order, and his manly tenderness in all cases of distress, his quiet, dignified and pure disposition has such a hold upon our hearts that we do feel that no one in all this world can ever take his place.

CHARLES CHRISTIAN BAER, 33°

The Masonic career of Brother Charles Christian Baer, who was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society from January, 1877, until his death in 1894, was most remarkable for its wide and important affiliations. When his useful life ended March 28, 1894, it was said of him that he had "served the whole Masonic fraternity." He was elected a member of the Board of Trustees at a stockholders meeting December 27, 1876, and was elected president of the Board in 1892, filling that office at the time of his demise.

Brother Baer was born May 17, 1840, at Robbstown, now West Newton, in Westmoreland county, Pa., and at an early age his family removed to Pittsburgh. He was made a Master Mason in Milnor Lodge, No. 287, at Pittsburgh; a Royal Arch Mason September 4, 1866 in Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162; a Royal and Select Master February 7, 1867, in Mt. Moriah Council, No. 2; a Knight Templar February 12, 1867, in Pittsburgh Commandery, No. 1, and the Scottish Rite degrees at Pittsburgh in April, 1866. He was created a Sovereign Grand Inspector-General and Honorary member of the Supreme Council of Sovereign Grand Inspectors-General of the Third-third and last degree at Provi-

dence, R. I., September 20, 1887. On the constitution of Dallas Lodge, No. 508, June 25, 1872, he became a charter member and was installed W. M. In Zerubbabel Chapter he was High Priest in 1876; and in 1877 was T. I. G. M. of Mt. Moriah Council. On the constitution of Tancred Commandery, No. 48, K. T., June 17, 1873, he became a charter member and was installed its first S. W.; he served as Captain General in 1874, Generalissimo in 1875, Eminent Commander in 1876 and treasurer from 1879 to 1892.

He was elected M. E. Sov. Pr. Grand Master of Pennsylvania Council, Princes of Jerusalem, in the Valley of Pittsburgh, on January 14, 1882, and was reelected regularly for thirteen years, and at his death he held that office. He served the Grand Council of Pennsylvania, R. and S. M., as R. P. Grand Principal Conductor of Work in 1889; R. P. Ill. Grand Master in 1890; R. P. Dep. Grand Master in 1891, and M. P. Grand Master in 1892.

In the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania, K. T., he was G. J. W. in 1888; Gr. S. W. in 1889; Gr. Captain General in 1890; G. Generalissimo in 1891; G. D. Gr. Commander in 1892, and R. E. Grand Commander in 1893 until his earthly career ended. From 1875 to his death he served as secretary of the "Masonic Consolidated Charity Fund" and was president for a term of the Masonic Veterans Association of Western Pennsylvania.

Brother James I. Buchanan, 33°, to whom we are indebted for the details of this sketch of the life of Brother Baer, has written the following:

Practically his whole career was spent in Pittsburgh. Here he was educated, trained in business as an errand boy in a store on Fifth avenue and subsequently assumed entire control of the business, which he removed to Wood street. While greatly blessed with prosperity the commendation of his associates and the approval of a clear conscience, it was always apparent that his greatest source of joy for twenty-nine years was in the companionship and devotion of a loving wife, who was always part of his thought in relation to every end he sought.

On Saturday, March 31, 1894, his loving fraters "made his grave," and bore his body to it, escorted by the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania, under command of R. E. Irving P. Wanger, Deputy and Acting Grand Commander, accompanied by the five Commanderies of the Division and the Ill. Commander-in-Chief of Pennsylvania

Consistory as the personal delegate and representative of Most Ill. Anthony E. Stocker, M. D., 33°, Deputy of the Supreme Council of Pennsylvania. Brother Baer was the first R. E. Grand Commander to die in office—the first called upon in Pennsylvania to put off his armor while in command.

WILLIAM J. ANDERSON

Brother William J. Anderson, a prominent iron manufacturer of Pittsburgh, became a member of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society at a special stockholders meeting held July 5, 1860, and succeeded Brother James W. Hailman, who had died a short time previously. Brother Anderson was regularly reelected each year until his death in 1875, a period of fifteen years. He was generally known as Col. Anderson and it was said of him that "he was raised in the iron business," his father, John Anderson, having conducted a foundry in Pittsburgh at Water and Ross streets for many years. When the son became of age, he entered the business with his father, the firm being styled John Anderson & Son. After his parent's death the firm was known as Anderson & Phillips, the latter being Brother Ormsby Phillips, who was elected mayor of Allegheny city in 1875, the year in which Col. Anderson died. When Mr. Phillips retired from the firm his place was taken by Henry Freyvogal, the business being then conducted under the title of W. J. Anderson & Co. Two years before his death Brother Anderson bought the foundry of S. S. Fowler & Co., on Water street, and the firm dissolving, Col. Anderson continued to own and conduct this foundry until his death. He was also vice president of the Pittsburgh Dollar Savings bank.

He was a member of Franklin Lodge, No. 221, and was its W. M. in 1855. In 1858 he was elected treasurer of that lodge and served in that office 12 years. He became a member of Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162, May 6, 1851, and was knighted in Pittsburgh Commandery, No. 1, June 13, 1859.

He died suddenly from apoplexy March 27, 1875. He was highly respected by his Masonic brethren and the community in general. The Pittsburgh "Gazette," in its notice of his death, had the following:

> The deceased was a man who was well known in commercial and social circles and was ranked among our best and most successful business men, and was held in high esteem in the business world and was loved by all those who knew him best in social life.

Brothers George Glass and Alexander M. Pollock were designated by the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society to prepare memorial resolutions, in which they pay this tribute:

> Resolved, that in the death of William J. Anderson this Board has lost one of its most useful and honorable members; and we, as individuals, a cherished friend and warm hearted brother.
>
> Resolved, that we openly acknowledge and cordially desire to perpetuate his genial qualities and goodness of heart.

ARTHUR BENJAMIN WIGLEY, 33°

Brother Arthur Benjamin Wigley, who became a member of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society January 1, 1894, was for a number of years active and conspicuous in Masonic circles in Pittsburgh. He served as a trustee through a period of five years and was president of the Board for three years, during 1896-7-8. He was born in Dudley England, December 30, 1848, and early in life went to Canada, and later came to the United States. Locating in Pittsburgh, he became there the representative of R. G. Dunn & Co. He was a member of St. John's Lodge, No. 219, and having been knighted in a Templar Commandery in Kentucky, was admitted to Pittsburgh Commandery, No. 1, July 8, 1879. In 1899 he became Eminent Commander of that Body. He received the Scottish Rite degrees in March, 1885 and during the years 1894-5-6 was T. P. Master of Gourgas Lodge of Perfection.

He died in Pittsburgh March 16, 1910, highly respected as a citizen and a Mason.

ANDREW D. ARMSTRONG

Brother Andrew D. Armstrong was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society for thirteen years, having been first elected by the stockholders at a meeting held December 27, 1902. At the annual organization of the Board for the year 1903 he was chosen secretary, and filled that office during the period of his membership on the Board. He was born in old Allegheny City in 1838 and died at his home in Bellevue, a suburb of Pittsburgh, May 25, 1916. He served in the Civil war, on the side of the North, in Company G, of the 123rd Pennsylvania regiment. For a number of years he was chief clerk in the Department of Public Works in the old city of Allegheny, and at the time of his death was superintendent of the transcribing room in the Recorder of Deed's office in Allegheny county.

He was a member and past master of Milnor Lodge, No. 287, and was a charter member of Ascalon Commandery, No. 59, K. T., and became a member of Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162, April 6, 1880.

WILLIAM BOYER LUPTON, 32°

Brother William Boyer Lupton, a member of Milnor Lodge, No. 287, was one of the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society for a period of nine years. He was elected at a stockholders' meeting December 27, 1895. At the close of the year 1896 he was chosen treasurer by the Board of Trustees and held that office for four years. In 1900 he was elected President of the Board and held that position at the time of his death.

Brother Lupton was born in Baltimore, Md., March 20, 1833, and at the age of 19 went with his father to California. In 1861 he made his home in Pittsburgh, and established the firm of Lupton, Olden & Co., engaged in the gravel roofing business. In 1866 he formed in the same business a partnership with the late Phillip Le-Gouillon,

under the firm name of William Lupton & Co., continuing therein until his death.

He was made a Mason in Milnor Lodge, No. 287, April 15, 1862, and in 1873 was W. M. He served as representative to the Grand Lodge for several years and in 1895 was treasurer of his lodge. He was a member of Tancred Commandery, No. 48, K. T., and received the Scottish Rite degrees in June, 1873. He became a member of Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162, October 19, 1865. Brother Lupton, who was a man of high character and had hosts of friends, died Thursday, February 4, 1904, and was laid to rest with Masonic services, conducted by his lodge.

WILLIAM P. THOMPSON

While one of the least conspicuous of the long list of brethren who have served on the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society, Brother William P. Thompson was nevertheless one of its most efficient and zealous members, During the nine consecutive years that he acted as a Trustee he took a great helpful interest in Masonic work and was held in high esteem both as a citizen and as a member of the Craft. He was for many years and up until his death a member of the firm of Albree & Co., shoe dealers, and was for forty years a shoe merchant on Wood street, Pittsburgh.

He was a member of St. John's lodge, No. 219, and was first elected a Trustee of the Masonic Fund Society December 27, 1877, and was regularly re-elected, serving until July 13, 1882, the date of his death. He was W. M. of St. John's Lodge in 1860, almost twenty years after he had joined that body. He was knighted in Pittsburgh Commandery, No. 1, September 1, 1852, and took a great interest in Templar Masonry, being chosen Eminent Commander of Pittsburgh Commandery, No. 1, for the years 1858 and 1859. He joined Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162, October 13, 1847, and was its treasurer from 1878 to 1881, inclusive.

He died at his residence, No. 16 Fourth avenue, Pittsburgh, July 13, 1882, at the age of 60 years.

ALBERT CULBERTSON

Brother Albert Culbertson was elected a member of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society by the stockholders at a meeting held December 27, 1855 and served through the years 1856-57. He was chosen treasurer of the Society December 29, 1856, and served until October 13, 1857, when he was succeeded by Brother John Birmingham, who was succeeded by Brother James W. Hailman January 4, 1858. Brother Culbertson, who was engaged in the wholesale grocery business, was a member of Franklin Lodge, No. 221, and joined Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162, October 1, 1850. He was knighted in Pittsburgh Commandery, No. 1, K. T., April 2, 1851, and in that Body reached the office of Generalissimo.

HARRY MILTON LANDIS, 32°

The following appreciative sketch of the useful life of Brother Harry Milton Landis, who died December 7, 1916, was embodied in the memorial resolutions adopted by the Board of Trustees at a meeting held January 2, 1917:

The family from whom Brother Landis descended were natives of Switzerland, and emigrated to America in 1683, settling in Chester county, Pennsylvania. He was the son of Hiram Landis and was born March 23, 1864, in Allegheny when it was still a separate municipality. He attended the public schools and at the age of 16 years became messenger for the Tradesmens' National Bank of Pittsburgh, where he advanced to the position of receiving teller, then to assistant cashier and finally was made cashier, and on the merger of that bank with the Columbia National bank he was retained as cashier. Upon the formation of the Federal National Bank in Pittsburgh he was made its first cashier and later was appointed vice president. When the Federal National Bank was merged with the Mellon National Bank,

Brother Landis retired from banking activities. In 1914 Mayor Joseph G. Armstrong of Pittsburgh appointed him city treasurer, which position he held at the time of his death.

He was made a Mason in St. John's Lodge, No. 219, December 21, 1894, and served that lodge as W. M. in 1902. He was exalted to the Supreme Degree of Royal Arch Mason in Shiloh Chapter, No. 257, October 18, 1905, and was knighted in Pittsburgh Commandery, No. 1, K. T., February 23, 1906. He received the Scottish Rite degrees in November, 1898, and served that Body as T. P. M. from May 1, 1913 to May 7, 1914. He was elected a member of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society August 19, 1901, and served continuously until his death. As chairman of the House Committee of that Board he was active in furthering the interests of the Society and as its treasurer, the funds were carefully, prudently and honestly handled. He was an active member of the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, serving as its treasurer for a number of years. He was also a member of the Duquesne Club of Pittsburgh and of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and treasurer of that organization.

The life and work of Brother Landis make a living example of an honorable social, civic and Masonic career. Kind by natural instinct, courteous by nature, upright and honorable in all his dealings, faithful to every trust, he lived to be kindly remembered and died sincerely regretted.